

ARTWORK BY MATT DAWSON



LOUISIANA
BOOK
FESTIVAL

Saturday
Nov. 1, 2025
Downtown
Baton Rouge

L O U I S I A N A B O O K F E S T I V A L . O R G

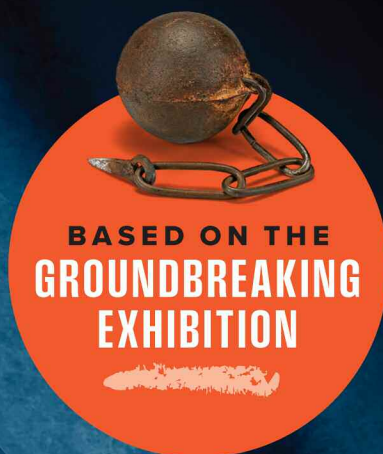
NEW IN PRINT FROM THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION

CAPTIVE STATE

LOUISIANA *and the* MAKING of
MASS INCARCERATION

BY
ERIC SEIFERTH,
KATHERINE JOLLIFF DUNN,
AND
KEVIN T. HARRELL
curators

AND
NICK WELDON
editor



"Captive State tells the story of Louisiana's history of incarceration and its roots in slavery with honesty and power. ... It's a reminder of how art and history can help us see the truth and imagine something better."

—JOHN LEGEND



"Captive State lays bare what so many of us lived through but few outside ever saw. It shows how Louisiana built a system on the back of slavery and locked away generations. I don't know of a more powerful depiction or a stronger indictment."

—CALVIN DUNCAN
AUTHOR, *THE JAILHOUSE LAWYER*



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

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2025 Louisiana Book Festival!

For two decades, our state's flagship literary event has served as a beacon for anyone moved by the transformative power of literature. It is a uniquely Louisiana celebration of readers, writers, and the books that connect them.

Louisiana's literary landscape is as rich and diverse as our cultural heritage itself. From the haunting prose of our Gothic storytellers to the vibrant narratives of contemporary voices, our state has produced writers whose words resonate far beyond our borders. This festival provides an unparalleled opportunity to engage with more than two hundred distinguished authors and literary professionals who represent every corner of the literary world—from captivating children's literature to compelling political thrillers.

Since its establishment in 2002, our festival has earned national recognition as one of America's premier literary events, drawing tens of thousands of visitors annually to downtown Baton Rouge. This achievement reflects our unwavering commitment to promoting literacy, lifelong learning, and the pure joy of reading among citizens of all ages. We take particular pride in inspiring young readers, knowing that today's festival attendees may well become tomorrow's celebrated authors.

Whether you're a devoted fan of mystery novels, a poetry enthusiast, or someone discovering new genres, you'll find programming designed to ignite your passion for the written word. Beyond the scheduled events, you'll discover that infectious energy that makes this gathering feel less like a formal festival and more like a celebration among kindred spirits.

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, I extend our heartfelt gratitude for your attendance and participation. Your presence here today strengthens our mission to celebrate the written word and ensures that Louisiana's literary legacy continues to flourish.

Welcome to what promises to be a memorable day of literary discovery and celebration!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Billy Nungesser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Billy" being more prominent than the last name "Nungesser".

Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser
Honorary Chairman, Louisiana Book Festival

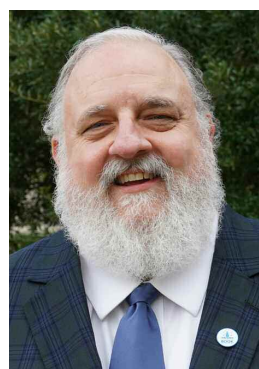


It is my great honor to welcome you to this year's Louisiana Book Festival! Whether you're a longtime festival devotee or joining us for the first time, we're delighted to have you as part of this remarkable literary community.

What started as an ambitious vision over 20 years ago has blossomed into one of the nation's most acclaimed literary festivals. The national reputation

of our event is a direct result of the exceptional caliber of our participants, and we're proud to present another excellent lineup of authors, exhibitors, and programming for 2025.

The Louisiana Book Festival is far more than a marketplace for books. In our Young Readers Pavilion, children encounter beloved storybook characters and meet the authors who created them, planting seeds for lifelong literary passion. Our Teen Headquarters connects young adults with bestselling and award-winning authors who speak directly to their experiences and aspirations.



Every fall, readers, writers, and visitors from near and far gather in Baton Rouge for one of our state's most beloved cultural traditions—the Louisiana Book Festival. Once again, the Capitol Park area has been transformed into a lively celebration of books, ideas, and creativity, and it's my pleasure to welcome you!

This year, more than two hundred authors from across the nation will join us to share their work through book talks, signings, and discussions. Over one hundred exhibitors are featured this year, including publishers, authors, libraries, and related vendors. In addition to more than one hundred programs, festivalgoers also have the opportunity to enjoy the great atmosphere, food, and camaraderie that reflects the depth and diversity of Louisiana's culture.

I'm sure you'll enjoy this year's One Book, One Festival discussion led by Gary Richards. It will highlight the timeless short stories of 19th century Louisiana author Kate Chopin, inviting reflection on one of our state's most enduring literary voices. We are also honored to present the 2025 Louisiana Writer Award to poet Julie Kane, whose body of work exemplifies the literary excellence

Meanwhile, our adult programming spans the full spectrum of literary interests—from compelling fiction and intimate memoirs to stirring poetry and everything in between.

This comprehensive approach to programming reflects the mission that has guided the State Library of Louisiana since its founding: fostering a deep and lasting love of books, reading, and literacy throughout our state. This year the festival kicks off with a celebration of the 100th birthday of the State Library, which coincidentally is November the 1st! We're excited to share this milestone with festival attendees, and our foundational mission continues to find expression through this celebrated event, creating a legacy that spans generations of Louisiana readers.

I hope your festival experience proves both enriching and memorable, and we encourage you to explore and enjoy everything this remarkable event has to offer.

Meg Placke

State Librarian, State Library of Louisiana

and cultural insight this festival seeks to elevate.

This year is especially meaningful as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the State Library of Louisiana. For a century, the library has served as a cornerstone of education, innovation, and civic engagement across Louisiana, and we are proud to share this milestone with festival attendees.

Thanks to all the authors, moderators, WordShop faculty, exhibitors, and sponsors who make this literary celebration possible, as well as our State Library staff, who have worked tirelessly—and in some cases, around the clock—to put on Louisiana's signature literary event.

The Louisiana Book Festival continues to thrive because of you—our community of devoted readers, curious minds, and story lovers that are here today. Whether you're joining us for the first time or returning as a festival veteran, we're grateful you're here to share in the joy of reading and the warmth of Louisiana hospitality. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Robert Wilson

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



LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL

GENERAL INFORMATION

Saturday, November 1, 2025

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The 2025 Louisiana Book Festival (LBF) program features over 200 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.*

2025 LOUISIANA WRITER AWARD RECIPIENT JULIE KANE

Poet **Julie Kane** is the 2025 recipient of the Louisiana Writer Award, presented annually by the Louisiana Center for the Book in the State Library of Louisiana. Kane is the 26th 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.

Noon to 12:45 pm

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Louisiana Writer Award Ceremony Honoring Julie Kane

Presented by the Louisiana Center for the Book

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

A Conversation with Julie Kane

"Julie Kane is a poet I will never tire of reading. Her technical mastery never gets in the way of her 'reports on being' that are by turns poignant, funny, moving, and disarmingly beautiful," says Darrell Bourque, 2009–2011 Louisiana Poet Laureate, 2014 Louisiana Writer Award recipient, and 2019 Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities Humanist of the Year. "In every poem the sly angel of a poet she is reveals itself and invites us into a world filled with light and gravity, inquiry and empathy, thought and compassion."

Alison Pelegrin, 2023–25 Poet Laureate, responded to the news with "I am thrilled to see Julie Kane recognized as the 2025 Louisiana Writer Award recipient, though she has always been a major writer to me. The footprints of Julie Kane's influence march through every stage of my life as a poet—the villanelles, the bartender poems, the strong women, the nasty women, the bravery and wit. Her latest, *Naked Ladies*, is a mic drop of a book that proves the extent of her powers, and I can think of no one more deserving of this honor."



A native of Boston, Kane moved to Louisiana nearly half a century ago. She has since made her home in five different Louisiana parishes—East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Orleans, Iberville, and Natchitoches—and served as Louisiana Poet Laureate from 2011 to 2013. Her poems frequently reflect the landscapes, characters, and culture of her adopted state. Writing about Kane for the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, critic Mary McKay said, "To read her poetry is to live briefly in New Orleans and other parts of Louisiana—to feel the heat, the air, the water, the fire, the life here."

As a Cornell University undergraduate, Kane won first prize in the *Mademoiselle Magazine* College Poetry Competition, judged by Anne Sexton and James Merrill. She went on to earn a master's degree in creative writing from Boston University, where she was Sexton's student at the time of her death. The following year, Kane became the first woman to hold the George Bennett Fellowship in Writing at Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire. That was followed by the move to Louisiana, where she was to earn a Ph.D. from Louisiana State University—winning its Lewis P. Simpson Dissertation Award and its Academy of American Poets Prize, judged by Louise Glück—and become a college professor herself. In 1995 and again in 1999 she served as New Orleans Writer-in-Residence at Tulane University. In 2016 Kane retired as Professor Emerita of English from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, having

won NSU's Excellence in Teaching Award, Mildred Hart Bailey Faculty Research Award, and Dr. Jean D'Amato Thomas Lifetime Achievement Award. During her time at NSU, Kane was also awarded a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to teach for a semester at Vilnius Pedagogical University in Lithuania.

Kane's first full-length poetry collection, *Body and Soul* (1987), came out from Pirogue Publishing, a small Louisiana press founded by Maple Leaf Bar (New Orleans) owner Hank Staples and the late Bill Roberts. Her publisher's attempts to sell copies from behind the bar were quickly thwarted by the beer spilled on them. But her second book, *Rhythm & Booze* (2003), won the National Poetry Series, judged by Maxine Kumin, bringing Kane to national attention. Kane's next book, *Jazz Funeral* (2009), won the Donald Justice Poetry Prize, judged by David Mason. It was followed by *Paper Bullets* (2014), a lighthearted collection of humorous poems. With *Mothers of Ireland* (2020), Kane returned to her Boston Irish-American roots and to the stories of her women ancestors' lives of trauma and resilience. That book won the Poetry by the Sea Book Award and was a longlist finalist for the Julie Suk Prize. Released in spring 2025 from LSU Press, *Naked Ladies: New and Selected Poems* gathers selections from her five previous books together with a generous sampling of new poems.

Along the way, Kane also had two poetry chapbooks published overseas, in London: *Two into One* (1982) and *The Bartender Poems* (1991). Playwright Harold Pinter was the funding source behind Greville Press, publisher of *The Bartender Poems*, and Pinter himself introduced Kane at the launch reading for her chapbook held in London's Southbank Centre—a Cinderella evening.

As a nonfiction writer, Kane co-authored the memoirs of Kiem Do, a South Vietnamese Naval Captain who settled in Gretna, Louisiana, with his family following the Fall of Saigon. *Counterpart: A South Vietnamese Naval Officer's War* (1998) became a History Book Club Featured Alternate Selection in spring 1999. Robert Olen Butler, who won the Pulitzer Prize for his collection of short stories about Vietnam War refugees in Louisiana, wrote, "As well written and detailed as most novels, *Counterpart* gives a fascinating view of the Vietnam War from a drastically under-represented point of view—the Vietnamese. This is an important—even indispensable—book."

Kane's contributions to literature include co-editing several books, including *Umpteen Ways of Looking at a Possum: Critical and Creative Responses to Everett Maddox*, from Xavier Review Press (2006). Maddox was a gifted poet and legendary New Orleans character who died young. The anthology of poems, stories, and essays about him became a finalist for the 2007 Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance (SIBA) poetry book prize. With Grace Bauer, Kane co-edited *Nasty*

Women Poets: An Unapologetic Anthology of Subversive Verse (2017); and with H. L. Hix, she co-edited *Terribly in Love* (2018), selected poems in English translation by the Lithuanian poet Tautvyda Marcinkevičiūtė. Kane was also associate editor for twentieth-century poetry of the Pearson/Longman Southern literature textbook *Voices of the American South* (2005).

Kane's poems have been set to music by composers Libby Larsen, Dale Trumbore, and Kenneth Olson and have been sung and/or recorded by performers including opera stars Susanne Mentzer and Jamie Barton and The American Boychoir. Most recently "The Sallow Harp," with lyrics by Kane and music by Trumbore, was premiered by the Macalester College Chorale in St. Paul, Minnesota. Kane and Trumbore previously collaborated on the one-act opera *Starship Paradise*, which had its premiere at Center City Opera Theater of Philadelphia.

Poet Dave Smith, Editor of the Southern Messenger Poets series at LSU Press which published Kane's last two poetry collections, had this to say about her Louisiana Writer Award:

Julie Kane is a quirky, independent, sassy, and always provocative poet. She is also an exquisite, demanding craft master, a student of verse history, a practitioner of traditions that have enabled personal stories to speak credibly over all borders of time and place and gender. These particular stories are the daunting ones of family promises and despairs and failures, of love that couldn't be sustained but can't be forgotten or even distanced, of the little nicks of the knife that turn out to be murderous to the soul. That's a hell of a lot to ask of a single writer but Ms. Kane is the kind of person who welcomes and profits from a good challenge. I think what makes her special, and welcome, is a wicked sense of humor and a braided intelligence whose continual function is to say, hey, listen man, and as it may be—you got to lighten up! Her poems are like elegant hands at our cheeks, sometimes consoling, sometimes slapping, sometimes embracing us. *Naked Ladies: New and Selected Poems* is a waltz of exposures and triumphant recoveries you don't have to be a poet to enjoy, you just have to have been alive enough to want the dodgy party life can be, a fine soiree Julie Kane cues up page after page.

Since her retirement from NSU, Kane has taught part time in the low-residency poetry MFA program at Western Colorado University. The chiefly online position allows her to continue residing in her beloved Louisiana while spending two weeks each summer in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. She is currently working on a collection of memoir essays about interesting characters she has known.

ABOUT THE ART



This year's Louisiana Book Festival artwork was created by Matt Dawson, an award-winning artist from Pineville and a Louisiana native originally from Natchitoches. A working artist for over twenty years, he is currently a resident artist at River Oaks Arts Center in Alexandria.

An avid reader, Dawson said that the opportunity to represent and promote Louisiana is not only a positive personal experience, but ties in perfectly with his latest series. "When I was approached about the art for the festival, I knew exactly what felt right for the piece and it was my recent city sketch scenes."

The unique progressive layout of the artwork is inspired by the accordion sketchbook format, where pages fold out to reveal extended horizontal compositions. "Recently I've been filling accordion sketchbooks with continuous city scenes," Dawson said. "These scenes are quirky, yet gritty at the same time. I thought it would be perfect if I stacked the streets one on another. I wanted to incorporate buildings from across the state, and between the buildings add books that are either set in Louisiana or were written by Louisianans, adding them to the street as if they were part of the landscape. The bottom

of the piece is set in the morning, and the day progresses as your eyes move up, culminating in a celebration in New Orleans at night."

In addition to his ink and watercolor city sketchbook scenes, Dawson is currently creating new acrylic representative compositions. "I focus on representative works depicting everyday life, and the mundane and overlooked parts of cities or landscapes," he explains. "I've drawn inspiration from Edward Hopper in his use of figures in an architectural environment isolated from most, and from the ash can artists of the early 1900s that highlighted the grittier parts of life."

Dawson has been awarded merit awards in various art shows, most recently at the 2025 Tom Peyton Memorial Arts Festival. His art was selected for the 2023 Natchitoches Christmas festival poster, and he has been featured in interviews with Fox News, ABC, and other media outlets. His work can be found online at MattDawson.art.

"I am ecstatic to be chosen for the Louisiana Book Festival. I hope that others will find as much enjoyment in the piece as I've had creating it."

PUBLIC LIBRARY ROUND-UP

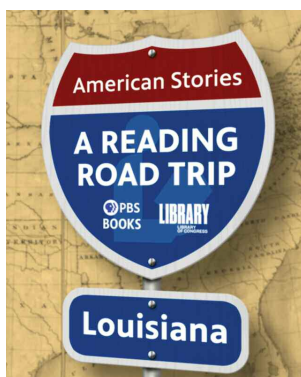
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

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.



AMERICAN STORES: A READING ROAD TRIP Next stop Louisiana

Premieres November 5 at 8pm ET/ 7pm CT

Watch on PBS Books Facebook Live, YouTube, the PBS app, or pbsbooks.org.

Buckle up and join **PBS Books** and the **Library of Congress** as we roll into Louisiana on American Stories: A Reading Road Trip! Step into a literary heritage as rich and soulful as a bowl of gumbo. From George Washington Cable's *The Grandissimes* and Grace King's *Balcony*

Stories, which sought to capture Creole life, to Ernest J. Gaines's powerful reflections in *A Lesson Before Dying* and Shirley Ann Grau's Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Keepers of the House*, Louisiana writers have long explored themes of identity, justice, and belonging. Even Anne Rice transformed the mystique of New Orleans into the hauntingly gothic world of *Interview with the Vampire*.

Hear from celebrated contemporary voices who capture the heart and rhythm of Louisiana today. Farrah Rochon brings warmth and humor to modern romances like *The Boyfriend Project*, while Maurice Carlos Ruffin shines a light on underrepresented voices in *The American Daughters*. Children's author William Joyce celebrates imagination in *The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore*, and poet Julie Kane, in *Rhythm & Booze*, distills the wit and musicality of New Orleans into verse. Together, they remind us that in Louisiana, stories don't just live on the page—they dance, sing, and celebrate the soul of a place like no other.

Experience this inspiration firsthand as *American Stories: A Reading Road Trip* visits Louisiana's independent bookstores, historic landmarks, and libraries—places where life is a celebration and there's a story on every corner.

About American Stories: A Reading Road Trip

Pack your curiosity — PBS Books is hitting the road! In partnership with the Library of Congress Centers for the Book, American Stories: A Reading Road Trip spotlights individual U.S. states and territories to uncover their one-of-a-kind literary treasures.

From iconic authors and unforgettable books to hidden-gem bookstores, inspiring libraries, and real-world locations that shaped great works, this cross-country adventure celebrates the stories that define our nation. Along the way, we'll meet bestselling authors, passionate booksellers, and local storytellers — revealing how each state's literary landscape has helped shape America's imagination. Aligned with the upcoming 250th anniversary of the United States, each episode invites viewers to explore the heart, history, and creative spirit of America — all through the lens of books and storytelling.

New episodes will stream on select Wednesdays at 8pm EST as PBS Books Facebook Live event, and on the PBS Books YouTube channel, pbsbooks.org, and the PBS app.

JIMMIE DAVIS'S 1987 CADILLAC, "SUNSHINE"

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

On Spanish Town Road near North Fourth St.

It's not just books being featured during this year's Louisiana Book Festival. We'll also feature a 1987 Cadillac.

But it's not just *any* Caddy. The yellow sedan is the last one Gov. Jimmie Davis owned before he stopped driving. The car is nicknamed Sunshine, in recognition of the song *You Are My Sunshine*, which arguably brought Davis as much notoriety as anything he did in office.

These days, 65-year-old Tim Calhoun from the village of Harrisonburg in Catahoula Parish owns the car. The governor's son, James, left it to Calhoun, a friend of almost 40 years, when he died in 2012. The car only has about 21,000 miles on it and mostly stays in a garage these days. Calhoun takes it out for a spin every now and then and says it's a hit when he drives it to church. But he knows its historic value and takes care to make sure nothing happens to it.



Calhoun recently wrote about his life and will be an exhibitor at the book festival, where he'll sell copies of his book. He asked if he could bring the car and the late governor's driver's license as a piece of living history that young people can learn from. (It was Davis who began Louisiana's driver's license program, and his license is numbered 1, Calhoun said. "Before that, all anyone had to do to drive was turn on the ignition.")

LIFESHARE MOBILE BLOOD DRIVE

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

On Spanish Town Road near North Fifth St.

LifeShare Mobile Blood Drive

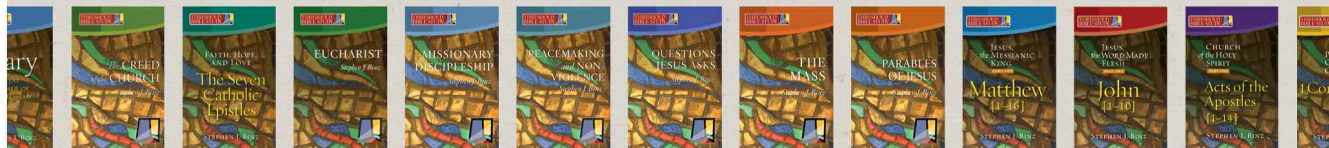


Every two seconds, someone somewhere needs blood. One of every seven people who enter the hospital will need blood and that person may be you, your loved one, a friend, or a co-worker. With all the wonderful advances in modern medicine, **there is still NO substitute for human blood** and it only comes from caring people who volunteer to help others by donating their life-saving blood.

In the short time it took to read the above paragraph, 11 people needed blood.

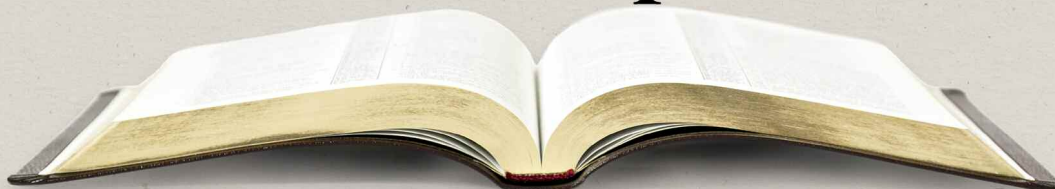
Will you help?

Visit the LifeShare Mobile Donor Coach on Spanish Town Road and donate today.

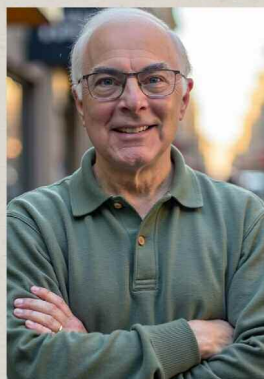


THRESHOLD BIBLE STUDY

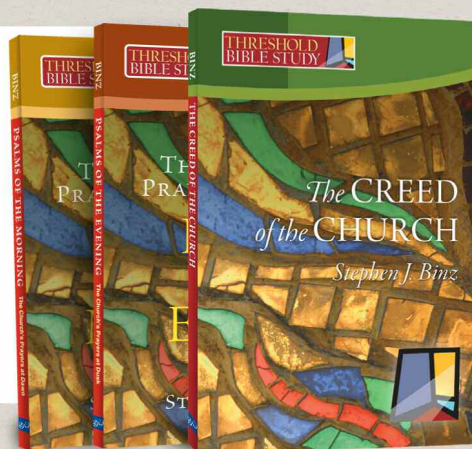
is a **dynamic, informative,**
and **inspiring** way to learn
about Scripture.



Stephen J. Binz authors these 30-lesson, theme-based books to help you to explore new dimensions of your faith, discover deeper insights for your life, and open the door of your heart to the risen Christ. Great for personal reflection as well as group study.



Stephen J. Binz is the founder and author of **Threshold Bible Study**. His biblical studies at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome and Jerusalem launched him into a lifetime of teaching and writing in service of Christ's Church. He speaks internationally at conferences and parishes, helping Catholics learn to read and meditate on Scripture within the tradition of the Church.



VISIT

www.bridge-b.com/threshold-bible-study

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“The little miracles shine as God’s messages of hope, making this a moving and powerful read... this could easily become a series.”

— RW, Professional Reader

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Best Children's Chapter Series



Renaissance
Accelerated Reader

Cajun Kids Adventures

Award-Winning Adventure Chapter Book Series

(Ages 8-14)



Family
Friendly
Media



Fiction

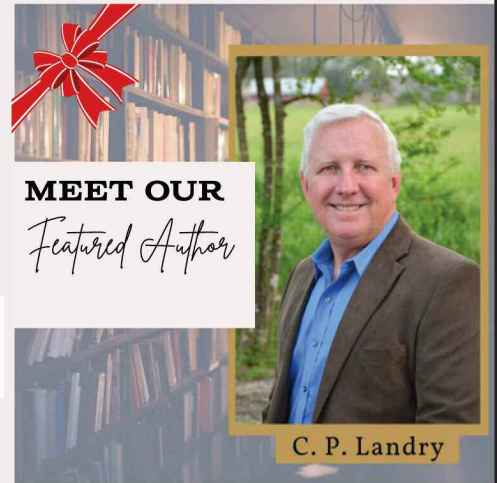


Our hardbacks are perfect for the struggling reader, the slightly dyslexic child, and the hardback collector

Look for us in the First Tent,
BOOTH A10!

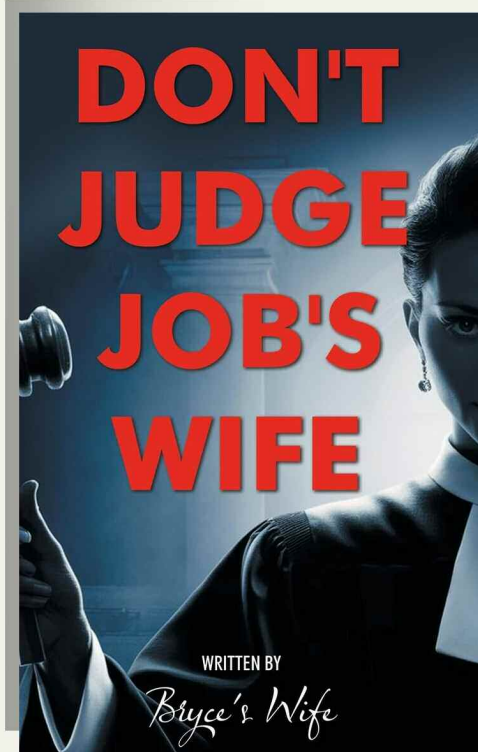


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C. P. Landry

book



Are you familiar with the story of Job?
Have you ever paused to consider Job's wife
and what she may have been feeling during those
trials?

I'm Tanya Cormier. In 2022, I felt like a modern
version of Job's wife as my husband, Bryce, was
hospitalized from February until his death on July 31.

This is the story of my journey and its parallels to hers.

PROGRAMS BY SUBJECT

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

ART, ARCHITECTURE, AND PHOTOGRAPHY

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Bienville Building, Conference Center 173

Contemporary Southern Vernacular:

Creating Sustainable Houses for Hot, Humid Climates

Jane and Michael Frederick

Noon to 12:45 pm

State Library, Fourth Floor

Charles Whitfield Richards: The Artist and His Circle

J. Michael Warner with moderator Miki Pfeffer

Noon to 12:45 pm

Bienville Building, Conference Center 173

Seeing Black:

Black Photography in New Orleans 1840 and Beyond

Shana Griffin and Tod Smith

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Bienville Building, Conference Center 173

Francis X Pavy: Forty Years Painting French Louisiana

Francis X. Pavy

BIOGRAPHY AND MEMOIR

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

From the Quad to the Broadcast Booth:

Telling Louisiana's University Stories

Chris Kennedy, *Louisiana Tech's Dave Nitz: The Voice of Bulldogs*

Michael S. Martin and Zachary G. Stein, *University of Louisiana at Lafayette*

9:00 am to 9:45 am

Bienville Building, Conference Center 118

Tender Battles: Fighting for Dignity in the

Face of Decline and Bureaucracy

Virginia Evans, *The Youngest Bee: A Louisiana Story of Sisterhood, Strength, & Alzheimer's*

Jeremy White, *InHumana: An American Healthcare Story* with moderator Miki Pfeffer

9:45 am to 10:15 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent C

Were You There?:

A Biography of Emma Wakefield-Paillet

Phebe Hayes and Margaret Simon

(ages 12 and up)

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Stomp Off, Let's Go: The Early Years of Louis Armstrong

Ricky Riccardi with moderator Gwen Thompkins

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, Third Floor

Whose South, Whose Story:

What Hath Jim Crow Wrought?

Wendy A. Gaudin, *Sunset Limited: An Autobiography of Creole*

Adolph L. Reed Jr., *The South: Jim Crow and Its Afterlives*

with moderator Maurice Carlos Ruffin

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

Fathers and Sons: Exploring Grief, Redemption, and Family Ties

John Dufresne, *My Darling Boy: A Novel*

Tripp Friedler, *The Tunnel: A Memoir*

with moderator Clancy DuBos

10:00 am to 11:00 am

Bienville Building, Conference Center 118

The Past Isn't Dead: Memoirs at the Crossroads of Violence and Voice

Jordan LaHaye Fontenot, *Home of the Happy: A Murder on the Cajun Prairie*

Bernice L. McFadden, *Firstborn Girls: A Memoir*

Lauren Rhoades, *Split the Baby: A Memoir in Pieces*

with moderator Teresa Tumminello Brader

11:00 am to 11:45 am

State Library, Third Floor

"Dr. Werthless": He Studied Murder and Nearly Killed the Comics Industry

Harold Schechter with moderator Maurice Carlos Ruffin

11:15 am to Noon

Bienville Building, Conference Center 118

In the Shadow of the South: Memoirs of Prejudice, Truth, and Hope

Larry Bagneris, *Call Me Larry: A Creole Man's Triumph over Racism and Homophobia*

Adam Gussow, *My Family and I: A Mississippi Memoir*
with moderator A.E. Rooks

11:15 am to Noon

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Struck Down, Not Destroyed: Keeping the Faith as a Vatican Reporter

Colleen Dulle with moderator Regine Richter-McClain

Noon to 12:45 pm

State Library, Third Floor

Pinchback and Long: Populism, Progress, and Political Power

Nicholas Patler, *Pinchback: America's First Black Governor*

Thomas E. Patterson, *American Populist: Huey Long of Louisiana*

with moderator David Johnson

Noon to 12:45 pm

State Library, Fourth Floor

Charles Whitfield Richards: The Artist and His Circle

J. Michael Warner with moderator Miki Pfeffer

Noon to 12:45 pm

Outside Museum, North Tent

The Einstein of Sex: Dr. Magnus Hirschfield, Visionary of Weimar Berlin

Daniel Brook with moderator Gary Richards

Noon to 12:45 pm

Outside Museum, South Tent

The Creole Gumbo of Identity: Lineage, Passing, and the Ingredients of Race

John W. Durel, *Descendants: The Divided Lineage of a Louisiana Creole Family*

Katy Morlas Shannon, *Invisible Blackness: A Louisiana Family in the Age of Racial Passing*

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

Bienville Building, Conference Center 118

Remembering, Reimagining, Becoming: Vietnamese Identity 50 Years After the War

Acclaimed author and co-editor **Thi Bui** and artist **Sam Nga Blum** discuss the evolution of Vietnamese diaspora identity with journalist **Serena Puang**. Using Bui's memoir, *The Best We Could Do*, as a touchstone for remembering the refugee experience, they will explore how contemporary writers and artists—as seen in the experimental and wide-ranging McSweeney's 78: *The Make Believers*—are now actively reimagining and creating a new, eclectic cultural language for what it means to be becoming Vietnamese in the world today.

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

Cooler Than Cool: The Life and Work of Elmore Leonard

C.M. Kushins

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

Bienville Building, Conference Center 118

Memoirs and Misadventures: Humorous Essays on Growing Up, Giving Up, and Getting Wiser

Lucie Frost, *How the Hell Did I Not Know That?: My Midlife Year from Couch to Curiosity*

Cason E. O'Banion, *Fire Ants: Essays Around and About Texarkana*

with moderator Stacey Balkun

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

The Art of Remembrance: Literary Memoirs on the Shaping of Identity

Catharine Savage Brosman, *Partial Memoirs*

Gavin Cologne-Brookes, *Portraits from Paris: School and Travel Remembered from the City of Light*

with moderator Tracy Carr

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

Peace is a Shy Thing: The Life and Art of Tim O'Brien

Alex Vernon

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

The Life and Poetry of Frank Stanford

James McWilliams with moderator Ralph Adamo

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Bienville Building, Conference Center 118

Delicious Heritage: Memoirs of Mixed Identity, Mangoes, and Meatballs

Raj Tawney, *Colorful Palate: A Flavorful Journey Through a Mixed American Experience*

Annabelle Tometich, *The Mango Tree: A Memoir of Fruit, Florida, and Felony*

CEREMONIES

9:00 am to 9:30 am

State Library, Front Steps

State Library of Louisiana's Centennial Celebration

Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser, State Librarian Meg Placke, and former State Librarian Thomas Jaques open the state's 21st annual Louisiana Book Festival with a commemoration of the library's role and impact on Louisiana education, literacy, and civic engagement since its founding in 1925.

9:00 am to 9:30 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent D

Young Readers' Choice Award Ceremony for Grades 6 to 8

Winner – *Swim Team* by Johnnie Christmas

Honor – *Camp Scare* by Delilah S. Dawson

9:45 am to 10:15 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent D

Louisiana Readers' Choice Award Ceremony for Grades K to 2

Winner – *Acorn Was a Little Wild* by Jen Arena

Honor – *Anglerfish: The Seadevil of the Deep* by Elaine M. Alexander

Noon to 12:45 pm

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Louisiana Writer Award Ceremony Honoring Julie Kane

CHILDREN'S INTERESTS

The Children's Author Tents are supported in part by a Strategic Partnership Grant from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

9:30 am to 10:00 am

Children's Author Tent 3

Michael the Wildlife Detective and the Haunted Mansion

Michael Birt

(ages 5 to 8)

9:45 am to 10:15 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent D

Louisiana Readers' Choice Award Ceremony for Grades K to 2

Winner – *Acorn Was a Little Wild* by Jen Arena

Honor – *Anglerfish: The Seadevil of the Deep* by Elaine M. Alexander

9:45 am to 10:15 am

Children's Author Tent 1

Beignet Bunny

Alexandra Navarre Davis

(ages 5 to 8)

10:00 am to 10:30 am

Children's Author Tent 2

Gary & Mary, Quite Contrary

Adam Dennis

(ages 5 to 8)

10:15 am to 10:45 am

Children's Author Tent 3

Lila Said No

Kiki Frayard

(ages 3 to 7)

10:30 am to 11:15 am

Children's Author Tent 1

My Hometown: Rayne, Louisiana

Denise Wiltz-Underwood

(ages 5 to 10)

10:45 am to 11:15 am

Children's Author Tent 2

The Pelican State Princess Slippers

Kristie Guillory Edmondson

(ages 5 to 8)

11:00 am to 11:30 am

Children's Author Tent 3

Acorn Was a Little Wild

Jen Arena

(Ages 2 to 5)

11:30 am to 12:15 pm

Children's Author Tent 1

The Dog Who Wouldn't Quit:

Scrim's Big City Tales of Escape and Rescue

Kaye N. Courington, *Scrim: A New Orleans Story of Resilience & Rescue*

Madi Hannan, *Scrim on the Run!*

(all ages)

11:30 am to Noon

Children's Author Tent 2

Down on the Bayou

Glenda Armand

(ages 4 to 8)

11:45 am to 12:15 pm

Children's Author Tent 3

Look Up!: Fontaine the Pigeon Starts a Revolution

Britt Gondolfi and Amanda Romanick

(ages 5 to 9)

12:15 pm to 12:45 pm

Children's Author Tent 2

The Nutcracker: A Swamp Tale

Emily Welch

(ages 5 to 8)

12:30 pm to 1:00 pm

Children's Author Tent 1

Lilliputian Living: Les Petits Plaisirs de la Vie

Becca Hillburn

(ages 10 to 16)

12:30 pm to 1:00 pm

Children's Author Tent 3

Anglerfish: Seadevil of the Deep

Elaine M. Alexander

(ages 4 to 8)

1:00 pm to 1:30 pm

Children's Author Tent 2

The Gumbo Gators and the Swamp Circus

Paul Schexnayder

(ages 5 to 8)

1:15 pm to 1:45 pm

Children's Author Tent 1

Fais Do-Do

Shannon Kelley Atwater

(ages 5 to 8)

1:15 pm to 1:45 pm

Children's Author Tent 3

Moon Cat

Casi Cole and Amanda Romanick

(ages 6 to 9)

1:45 pm to 2:15 pm

Children's Author Tent 2

Soggy Like Cush Cush

Karly Pierre

(ages 3 to 6)

2:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Children's Author Tent 3

The Sky Is Not Blue

Joy Jones

(ages 6 to 8)

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Children's Author Tent 1

Jasper Price's Whimsical World

Jasper Price

(ages 5 to 11)

2:30 pm to 3:00 pm

Children's Author Tent 2

Geaux Boudreaux

Laura Carroll

(ages 5 to 8)

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Children's Author Tent 3

Don't Just Sit There...Read Something!:***Musical Fun for the Whole Family***

Rick Kelley

(all ages)

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE**10:30 am to 11:00 am**

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent C

A Place for Pelicans:***The Incredible Story of Queen Bess Island***

Gayle Webre

(ages 8 to 12)

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Bayou Dilemma: Louisiana in Crisis and Change

Pearson Cross, Keith M. Finley, and Samuel C. Hyde Jr.

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

The American Alligator: Abused, Protected, Restored

Robert W. Hastings with moderator Morgan Tarpley Smith

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative: A Vision for Twenty-First-Century Science

Justin Shapiro with moderator David Johnson

FICTION AND LITERATURE

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Voices and Visions:

Essays on New Orleans's Literary History

Ruth Caillouet, Mary C. Carruth, Nancy Dixon, and

Edward J. Dupuy

9:00 am to 9:45 am

Outside Museum, North Tent

***One Book, One Festival: A Trio of Kate Chopin Stories –
“At the ‘Cadien Ball,” “La Belle Zoraide,” and
“Athenaise”***

Gary Richards

9:00 am to 9:45 am

Bienville Building, Conference Center 173

Small Town Troubles: Memories, Mystery, and Meaning

George Graham, *Marsh Island Memories: A Novel*

Mary H. Manhein, *A Call to Rowan: A Novella*

9:30 am to 10:30 am

Outside Museum, South Tent

Debut Novels: Stories of Love, Turmoil, and Belonging

Kionna Walker LeMalle, *Behind the Waterline: A Novel*

Ery Shin, *Spring on the Peninsula: A Novel*

Sheila Sundar, *Habitations*

with moderator Karen O’Connell

9:30 am to 10:30 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Hit the Road: Modern Literary Odysseys

Rod Davis, *Life in the Time of Hurricanes*

David Starkey, *The Fairley Brothers in Japan*

James Wade, *Narrow the Road: A Novel*

with moderator Chris Tusa

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

***Fathers and Sons: Exploring Grief, Redemption, and
Family Ties***

John Dufresne, *My Darling Boy: A Novel*

Tripp Friedler, *The Tunnel: A Memoir*

with moderator Clancy DuBos

10:45 am to 11:45 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

***Southern Currents: Short Stories of Place, People, and
Possibility***

Robert Busby, *Bodock: Stories*

Toby LeBlanc, *Soaked: Stories*

Marguerite Sheffer, *The Man in the Banana Trees: Stories*

with moderator Chris Tusa

11:00 am to 11:45 am

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Twice Around a Marriage

Robert Olen Butler

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Outside Museum, North Tent

***The Queen's Path: A Revolutionary Guide to Women's
Empowerment and Sovereignty***

Stacey Simmons with moderator Melinda Walsh

Noon to 1:00 pm

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

***Fiction from Fact: Louisiana Novels of Subterfuge,
Survival, and the Human Spirit***

Charles J. Ballay and Susan D. Mustafa, *Blood Moon Over
Bohemia*

Daren Dean, *Shelter Me: A Novel*

Diane C. McPhail, *Follow the Stars Home: A Novel*

Owen Pataki, *Smoke in the Cypress: A Napoleonic Officer in
New Orleans*

with moderator Tracy Carr

Noon to 12:45 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

***For Better or For Worse: The Moments that Define –
and Decide – a Marriage***

Constance Adler, *Sight Unseen: A Novel*

Jonathan Evison, *The Heart of Winter: A Novel*

with moderator Stacey Balkun

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

***What My Father and I Don't Talk About:
Sixteen Writers Break the Silence***

Michele Filgate and Maurice Carlos Ruffin

with moderator David Armand

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

The River is Waiting

Wally Lamb

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Generational Dangers: Outlaws, Spies, and Texans Across the Decades

Jack Woodville London, *Dangerous Latitudes: A Novel*

Phil Oakley, *Runners*

with moderator Karen O'Connell

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

State Library, Fourth Floor

Scenes from She Danced with a Redfish

Join playwright **Carolyn Nur Wistrand** as she examines her award-winning play with actors **Michael C. Forest, Kendall Harrison, Krystal "Gem" Jackson, and TaNiya Latiker**. The discussion will be brought to life through dynamic, staged readings of key scenes.

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

Fiction After the End: Building, Surviving, and Seeing the World Anew

Eiren Caffall, *All the Water in the World: A Novel*

Malaika Favorite, *After Color*

Joshua Wheeler, *The High Heaven: A Novel*

with moderator Serena Puang

2:15 pm to 3:15 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Between Confession and Concealment:

Short Stories of the Modern Soul

Teresa Tumminello Brader, *Secret Keepers: Stories*

Daren Dean, *The New Salvation and Other Stories*

Jennifer Anne Moses, *You've Told Me Before: Stories*

with moderator A.E. Rooks

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Outside Museum, South Tent

Stories Told and Untold:

Sisters, Secrets, and Southern Reckoning

Kelly Mustian, *The River Knows Your Name: A Novel*

John Warner Smith, *Sisters of Gavinville*

with moderator Megan Holt

FOODWAYS

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Outside Museum, North Tent

Passageways and Foodways: Slavery and Racism in the Formation of Southern Cities

Jennie Lightweis-Goff, *Captive City: Meditations on Slavery in the Urban South*

Theresa McCulla, *Insatiable City: Food and Race in New Orleans*

with moderator Eva Semien Baham

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Bienville Building, Conference Center 118

Delicious Heritage: Memoirs of Mixed Identity, Mangoes, and Meatballs

Raj Tawney, *Colorful Palate: A Flavorful Journey*

Through a Mixed American Experience

Annabelle Tometich, *The Mango Tree: A Memoir of Fruit, Florida, and Felony*

Cooking Demos

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

Bébés, Beauty & Bees: Making Fancy Look Easy

Amanda Hampton Bravender with moderator

Joshua Hebert

11:15 am to Noon

Cooking Demonstration Tent

Who's Your Mama, Are You Catholic, and Can You Make a Roux?

Marcelle Bienvenu with moderator Joshua Hebert

12:30 pm to 1:15 pm

Cooking Demonstration Tent

Chef Celeste's Louisiana Kitchen:

Simplifying Cajun and Creole Cuisine

Celeste Gill with moderator Joshua Hebert

1:45 pm to 2:30 pm

Cooking Demonstration Tent

Crescent City Cocktail Hour:

Stirring Up History One Cocktail at a Time

Sharon Keating and Christi Keating Sumich,

The Brandy Milk Punch

Sue Strachan, *The Obituary Cocktail*

with moderator Joshua Hebert

GRAPHIC NOVELS

11:00 am to 11:45 am

State Library, Third Floor

"Dr. Werthless": He Studied Murder and Nearly Killed the Comics Industry

Harold Schechter with moderator Maurice Carlos Ruffin

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

Bienville Building, Conference Center 118

***Remembering, Reimagining, Becoming:
Vietnamese Identity 50 Years After the War***

Acclaimed author and co-editor **Thi Bui** and artist **Sam Nga Blum** discuss the evolution of Vietnamese diaspora identity with journalist **Serena Puang**. Using Bui's memoir, *The Best We Could Do*, as a touchstone for remembering the refugee experience, they will explore how contemporary writers and artists—as seen in the experimental and wide-ranging McSweeney's 78: *The Make Believers*—are now actively reimagining and creating a new, eclectic cultural language for what it means to be becoming Vietnamese in the world today.

HISTORY

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

***From the Quad to the Broadcast Booth: Telling
Louisiana's University Stories***

Chris Kennedy, *Louisiana Tech's Dave Nitz: The Voice
of Bulldogs*

Michael S. Martin and Zachary G. Stein, *University of
Louisiana at Lafayette*

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, Fourth Floor

Louisiana Spirits: Haunted History

Nicole Beauchamp, *Haunted French Quarter Hotels*

Michael Wynne, *Haunted Central Louisiana*

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

***The Etruscans and the Jews: New Orleans Echoes,
Sardinian Shadows, Roman Shame***

Peter M. Wolf with moderator Jim Engster

9:00 am to 9:45 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

***Shreveport Martyr Father Jean Pierre:
Fearful Steps Strengthened by Hope***

Cheryl H. White with moderator Colleen Dulle

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

Sickly Vapors:

Disease and Doctoring in the Old South

Thomas Helling with moderator Tracy Carr

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Outside Museum, North Tent

***American Scare: Florida's Hidden Cold War on Black
and Queer Lives***

Robert W. Fieseler with moderator A.E. Rooks

11:00 am to 11:45 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

America's Greatest Library:

An Illustrated History of the Library of Congress

John Y. Cole with moderator Tracy Carr

11:00 am to 11:45 am

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

Beneath Heavy Pines in World War II Louisiana

Hayley Johnson and Sarah Simms with moderator

Morgan Tarpley Smith

11:00 am to 11:45 am

State Library, Fourth Floor

Captive State:

Louisiana and the Making of Mass Incarceration

Eric Seiferth and Nick Weldon

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

Crossroads, Cutoffs, and Confluences:

Origins of Louisiana Cities, Towns, and Villages

Richard Campanella

Noon to 12:45 pm

State Library, Third Floor

Pinchback and Long:

Populism, Progress, and Political Power

Nicholas Patler, *Pinchback: America's First Black Governor*

Thomas E. Patterson, *American Populist: Huey Long of
Louisiana*

with moderator David Johnson

Noon to 12:45 pm

Outside Museum, North Tent

***The Einstein of Sex: Dr. Magnus Hirschfield,
Visionary of Weimar Berlin***

Daniel Brook with moderator Gary Richards

Noon to 12:45 pm

Outside Museum, South Tent

The Creole Gumbo of Identity: Lineage, Passing, and the Ingredients of Race

John W. Durel, *Descendants: The Divided Lineage of a Louisiana Creole Family*

Katy Morlas Shannon, *Invisible Blackness: A Louisiana Family in the Age of Racial Passing*

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

State Library, Third Floor

Fractured Freedoms: Reconstructing Central Louisiana

David T. Ballantyne

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Outside Museum, North Tent

Passageways and Foodways: Slavery and Racism in the Formation of Southern Cities

Jennie Lightweis-Goff, *Captive City: Meditations on Slavery in the Urban South*

Theresa McCulla, *Insatiable City: Food and Race in New Orleans*
with moderator Eva Semien Baham

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

State Library, Third Floor

Exceptional City, Dangerous Frontier: Unpacking New Orleans History

Charles D. Chamberlain, *New Orleans: A Concise History of an Exceptional City*

David Michael Schneider, *Crime in Colonial New Orleans: Terror on the Frontier*

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Outside Museum, North Tent

Rainbow Fleur de Lis:

Essays on Queer New Orleans History

Frank Perez with moderator Alecia P. Long

HORROR AND THE SUPERNATURAL

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, Fourth Floor

Louisiana Spirits: Haunted History

Nicole Beauchamp, *Haunted French Quarter Hotels*

Michael Wynne, *Haunted Central Louisiana*

9:30 am to 10:15 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

Speak of the Devil:

Where Music, Madness, and Murder Meet

K. Scott Culpepper, *The Demonologists' Daughters*

Vincent B. "Chip" LoCoco, *The Devil's Jazz: The Haunted Chronicles of the Axman of New Orleans*

10:45 am to 11:45 am

Outside Museum, South Tent

Grave Humor:

Cults, Killers, and the Dark Sides of Community

Delilah S. Dawson, *House of Idyll*

Philip Fracassi, *The Autumn Springs Retirement Home Massacre*

Jenny Kiefer, *Crafting for Sinners: A Novel*

with moderator June Pulliam

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

The Architecture of Evil: Haunted Houses, Broken Hearts, and Horror That Doesn't Hold Back

Brian Asman, *Man, F*ck This House (and Other Disasters)*

Christina Henry, *The Place Where They Buried Your Heart*

with moderator Adrian Van Young

2:30 pm to 3:15 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent C

How to Survive a Young Adult Horror Novel (or Die Trying)

Desiree S. Evans, *The Black Girl Survives in This One: Horror Stories*

Olivia Worley, *So Happy Together: A Novel*
(ages 12 and up)

MUSIC

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Stomp Off, Let's Go: The Early Years of Louis Armstrong

Ricky Riccardi with moderator Gwen Thompkins

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, Fourth Floor

Let the Music Speak: Tracking the Sounds That Changed Everything

Hank Ewert with moderator Charles D. Chamberlain

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Bienville Building, Conference Center 173

Donna's Bar & Grill New Orleans

Donna Poniatowski Sims with moderator David Johnson

Noon to 12:45 pm

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

Beatles for Sale to Help!

Bruce Spizer

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

State Library, Fourth Floor

How Women Made Music:

A Revolutionary History from NPR Music

Alison Fensterstock and Gwen Thompkins with moderator
Megan Holt

MYSTERY, MURDER, AND THRILLER

9:30 am to 10:15 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

Speak of the Devil:

Where Music, Madness, and Murder Meet

K. Scott Culpepper, *The Demonologists' Daughters*

Vincent B. "Chip" LoCoco, *The Devil's Jazz: The Haunted
Chronicles of the Axman of New Orleans*

10:30 am to 11:30 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

Old Sins Cast Long Shadows: Suspense Thrillers

Daco S. Auffenorde, *The Medici Curse: A Novel of Suspense*

Emily Carpenter, *Gothictown: A Novel*

Jennifer Moorhead, *Poison Wood*

with moderator Brittany Ramey

11:45 am to 12:45 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

***The Fictional Façade: Thrillers About Hidden Lives,
Obsession, and Family Secrets***

Julie Clark, *The Ghostwriter: A Novel*

Amy Rossi, *The Cover Girl: A Novel*

Olivia Worley, *So Happy Together: A Novel*

with moderator Brittany Ramey

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Outside Museum, South Tent

Unquiet Communities:

Myth, Murder, and the Search for Justice

Eli Cranor, *Mississippi Blue 42: A Novel*

Laurie L. Dove, *The Mask of the Deer Woman: A Novel*

Matthew Sullivan, *Midnight in Soap Lake: A Novel*

with moderator Maurice Carlos Ruffin

NONFICTION

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

From the Quad to the Broadcast Booth:

Telling Louisiana's University Stories

Chris Kennedy, *Louisiana Tech's Dave Nitz: The Voice of
Bulldogs*

Michael S. Martin and Zachary G. Stein, *University of
Louisiana at Lafayette*

9:00 am to 9:45 am

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

Vintage Louisiana Signs

Tim Hollis

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

Preserving the Legacy:

Creating the National World War II Museum

Gordon H. "Nick" Mueller with moderator Jason Van

10:30 am to 11:00 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent C

A Place for Pelicans:

The Incredible Story of Queen Bess Island

Gayle Webre

(ages 8 to 12)

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Bienville Building, Conference Center 173

Donna's Bar & Grill New Orleans

Donna Poniatowski Sims with moderator David Johnson

11:30 am to 12:15 pm

Children's Author Tent 1

The Dog Who Wouldn't Quit:

Scrim's Big City Tales of Escape and Rescue

Kaye N. Courington, *Scrim: A New Orleans Story of Resilience
& Rescue*

Madi Hannan, *Scrim on the Run!*

(all ages)

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Outside Museum, North Tent

Passageways and Foodways:

Slavery and Racism in the Formation of Southern Cities

Jennie Lightweis-Goff, *Captive City: Meditations on Slavery in
the Urban South*

Theresa McCulla, *Insatiable City: Food and Race in New
Orleans*

with moderator Eva Semien Baham

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Outside Museum, North Tent

Rainbow Fleur de Lis:

Essays on Queer New Orleans History

Frank Perez with moderator Alecia P. Long

2:15 pm to 3:15 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent D

Everything but Typical: Influential Neurodivergent People Who Have Shaped the World

Join us for an uplifting program for all ages as **Margeaux Weston** sits down with a phenomenal panel of neurodivergent creators and powerful advocates for this inspirational discussion, including authors and artists **Delilah S. Dawson**, **Britt Gondolfi**, **Madi Hannan**, **Becca Hillburn**, and **K. Ibura**. United by a shared commitment to acceptance and strength, they will share their personal stories, professional achievements, and insights on navigating life and offer encouragement and practical wisdom for thriving in a world that needs every kind of brilliant mind.

(all ages)

3:00 pm to 3:45 pm

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Inside Words: What Our Incarcerated Students Taught Us

Bestselling author **Wally Lamb** and poet **Alison Pelegrin** discuss the transformative power of teaching writing workshops in prison settings, revealing the surprising wisdom and literary insight they gained from their incarcerated students.

POETRY

9:00 am to 10:00 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

The Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents Louisiana Poets, Volume 1

Ralph Adamo, *All Fall Down: Poems 2020-2024*

Catharine Savage Brosman, *Metates and Other Poems*

Elizabeth Burk, *Unmoored: Poems*

David Middleton, *Time Will Tell: Collected Poems*

Brad Richard, *Turned Earth: Poems*

and *Motion Studies: Second Edition*

Ed Ruzicka, *In the Wind: Poems*

with Gina Ferrara

10:15 am to 11:00 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

Poet Laureate to Poet Laureate

Gina Ferrara and Alison Pelegrin

11:15 am to Noon

Outside Museum, West Tent

Hurricanes Katrina & Rita at 20:

An Anthology of Louisiana Poetry with Art

Featuring contributors Malaika Favorite, J. Bruce Fuller, Merrill Guillory, Patrice Melnick, Benjamin Morris, Michelle (M.A.) Nicholson, and Brad Richard, with editors Mona Lisa Saloy and John Warner Smith

Noon to 12:45 pm

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Louisiana Writer Award Ceremony

Honoring Julie Kane

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.

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Outside Museum, West Tent

The Louisiana Poet Laureate

Presents Louisiana Poets, Volume 2

Dennis Formento, *Phaeton's Wheels*

Olivia Clare Friedman, *An Arm Fixed to a Wing: Poems*

Skye Jackson, *Libre*

Benjamin Morris, *The Singing River: Poems*

Chuck Perkins, *Beautiful and Ugly Too*

Denise M. Rogers, *The Word for When: Poems*

with Gina Ferrara

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

A Conversation with Julie Kane

Julie Kane with moderator Darrell Bourque

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Outside Museum, West Tent

From Borough to Bayou:

A Conversation Between the State Poet Laureates

A poetry exchange between New York State Poet Laureate Kimiko Hahn and Louisiana State Poet Laureate Gina Ferrara.

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

The Life and Poetry of Frank Stanford

James McWilliams with moderator Ralph Adamo

ROMANCE

10:00 am to 11:00 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Love Stories: From Meet-Cutes to Matrimony

Rosey Lee, *A Gardin Wedding: A Gardens of Edin Novel*

Maren Moore, *Red Card*

Farrah Rochon, *Pugs & Kisses*

with moderator Jodi Laidlaw

1:30 pm to 2:15 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent C

Royals & Romance: Contemporary Young Adult Fiction

Lindsey Duga, *Royal Heirs Academy*

Jenn P. Nguyen, *Just Another Meet Cute*

(ages 12 and up)

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Hearts Ablaze: Where Romance Meets Fantasy

Juliette Cross, *Firebird*

Meredith R. Lyons, *A Dagger of Lightning*

with moderator Ellen Morris Prewitt

SHORT STORIES

10:45 am to 11:45 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Southern Currents:

Short Stories of Place, People, and Possibility

Robert Busby, *Bodock: Stories*

Toby LeBlanc, *Soaked: Stories*

Marguerite Sheffer, *The Man in the Banana Trees: Stories*

with moderator Chris Tusa

2:15 pm to 3:15 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Between Confession and Concealment:

Short Stories of the Modern Soul

Teresa Tumminello Brader, *Secret Keepers: Stories*

Daren Dean, *The New Salvation and Other Stories*

Jennifer Anne Moses, *You've Told Me Before: Stories*

with moderator A.E. Rooks

SPIRITUALITY

9:00 am to 9:45 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Shreveport Martyr Father Jean Pierre:

Fearful Steps Strengthened by Hope

Cheryl H. White with moderator Colleen Dulle

11:15 am to Noon

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Struck Down, Not Destroyed:

Keeping the Faith as a Vatican Reporter

Colleen Dulle with moderator Regine Richter-McClain

TEENS AND TWEENS

9:00 am to 9:30 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent C

Craziest Cajun Football Tale

Gary and Melina Alipio

(ages 7 to 13)

9:00 am to 9:30 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent D

Young Readers' Choice Award Ceremony for Grades 6 to 8

Winner – *Swim Team* by Johnnie Christmas

Honor – *Camp Scare* by Delilah S. Dawson

9:45 am to 10:15 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent C

Were You There?:

A Biography of Emma Wakefield-Paillet

Phebe Hayes and Margaret Simon

(ages 12 and up)

10:30 am to 11:00 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent C

A Place for Pelicans:

The Incredible Story of Queen Bess Island

Gayle Webre

(ages 8 to 12)

10:30 am to 11:30 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent D

Beyond Words: Middle Grade Graphic Novels

Jesse Byrd, *Dream Warriors: A New World*

Johnnie Christmas, *Gamerville*

Allan Wolf, *The Vanishing of Lake Peigneur: A Graphic Novel*

Based on a True Story

(ages 8 to 14)

11:15 am to 12:15 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent C

Beyond the Horizon: Where Magic, Sci-Fi, and Horror Meet in Young Adult Fiction

K. Ibura, *Tempest*

Kristin Illarmo, *Against the Red Sky*

Xan Kaur, *When Devils Sing*

Trang Thanh Tran, *They Bloom at Night*

(ages 13 to 18)

11:30 am to 12:15 pm

Children's Author Tent 1

The Dog Who Wouldn't Quit:

Scrim's Big City Tales of Escape and Rescue

Kaye N. Courington, *Scrim: A New Orleans Story of Resilience & Rescue*

Madi Hannan, *Scrim on the Run!*

(all ages)

11:45 am to 12:30 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent D

The Power of Friendship:***Contemporary Middle Grade Novels***Sarah Guillory, *Gus and Glory*Raj Tawney, *All Mixed Up*

(ages 8 to 12)

12:30 pm to 1:15 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent C

Swamps, Secrets, and Scallywags:***Middle Grade Louisiana Adventures***C.P. Landry, *The Legend of Awful Art* and *The Watchmen*Yvette Landry and Cullen Bernard, *The Wild Girl of Catahoula*

with moderator Aimee Ardonne

(ages 8 to 14)

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent D

Secrets, Swashbucklers, and Spooky School Nights:***Middle Grade Mayhem***Delilah S. Dawson, *Ride or Die*Marti Dumas, *Nina and the Keeper of the Keystone: Secret**Society of Rebel Girls*Cari Galeziewski, *Mirabell and the Immortal Pirate Black Sam**Bellamy*Allan Wolf, *Junius Leak and the Spiraling Vortex*

(ages 8 to 14)

1:30 pm to 2:15 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent C

Royals & Romance: Contemporary Young Adult FictionLindsey Duga, *Royal Heirs Academy*Jenn P. Nguyen, *Just Another Meet Cute*

(ages 12 and up)

2:15 pm to 3:15 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent D

Everything but Typical: Influential Neurodivergent People Who Have Shaped the World

Join us for an uplifting program for all ages as **Margeaux Weston** sits down with a phenomenal panel of neurodivergent creators and powerful advocates for this inspirational discussion, including authors and artists **Delilah S. Dawson**, **Britt Gondolfi**, **Madi Hannan**, **Becca Hillburn**, and **K. Ibura**. United by a shared commitment to acceptance and strength, they will share their personal stories, professional achievements, and insights on navigating life and offer encouragement and practical wisdom for thriving in a world that needs every kind of brilliant mind.

(all ages)

2:30 pm to 3:15 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent C

How to Survive a Young Adult Horror Novel (or Die Trying)Desiree S. Evans, *The Black Girl Survives in This One: Horror Stories*Olivia Worley, *So Happy Together: A Novel*

(ages 12 and up)

TRUE CRIME**10:00 am to 11:00 am**

Bienville Building, Conference Center 118

The Past Isn't Dead:***Memoirs at the Crossroads of Violence and Voice***Jordan LaHaye Fontenot, *Home of the Happy: A Murder on the Cajun Prairie*Bernice L. McFadden, *Firstborn Girls: A Memoir*Lauren Rhoades, *Split the Baby: A Memoir in Pieces*

with moderator Teresa Tumminello Brader

11:00 am to 11:45 am

State Library, Third Floor

"Dr. Werthless": He Studied Murder and Nearly Killed the Comics Industry

Harold Schechter with moderator Maurice Carlos Ruffin

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Trespassers at the Golden Gate: A True Account of Love, Murder, and Madness in Gilded Age San Francisco

Gary Krist

WORLD WAR II**10:00 am to 10:45 am**

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

Preserving the Legacy:***Creating the National World War II Museum***

Gordon H. "Nick" Mueller with moderator Jason Van

11:00 am to 11:45 am

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

Beneath Heavy Pines in World War II Louisiana

Hayley Johnson and Sarah Simms with moderator

Morgan Tarpley Smith



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.

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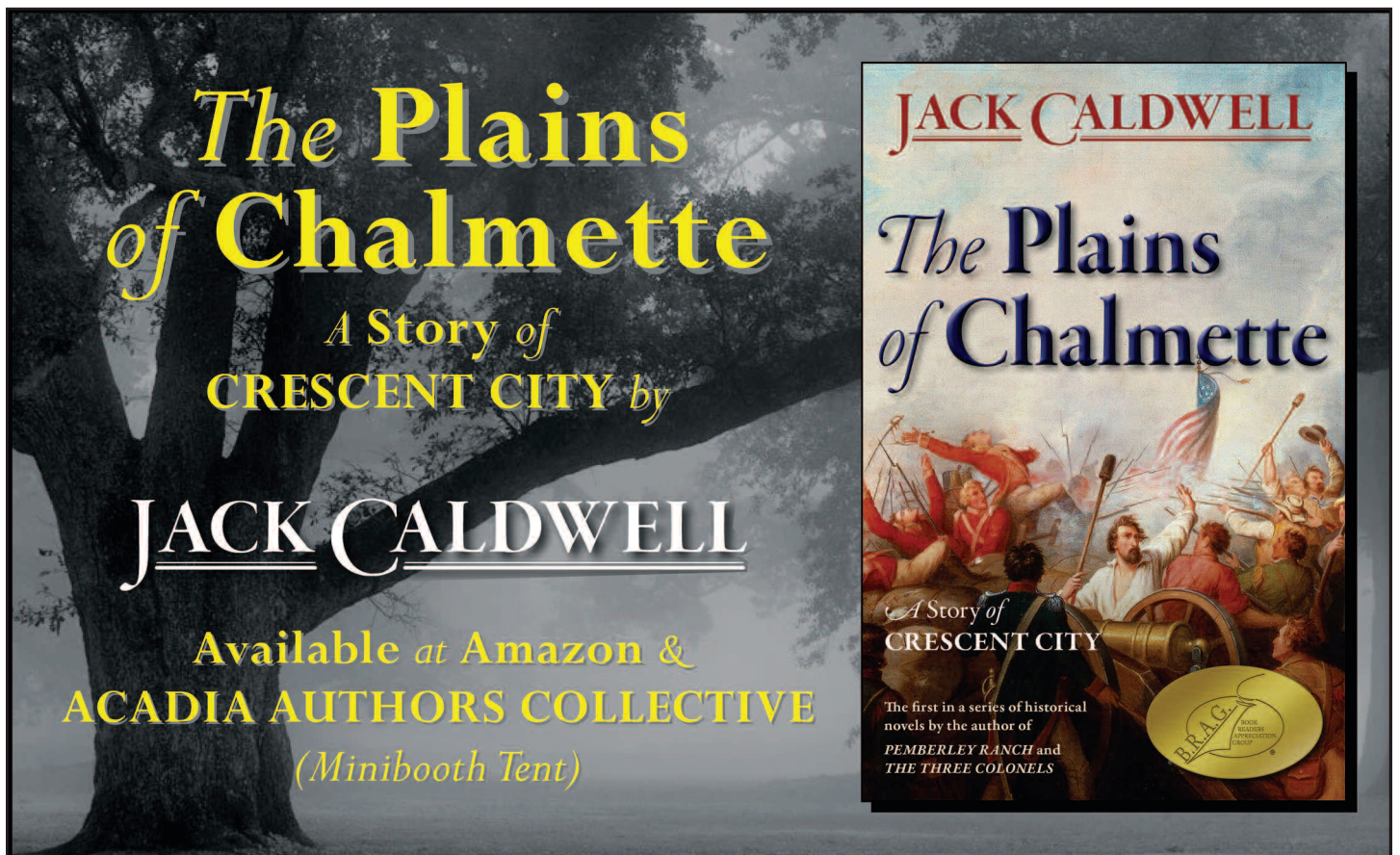
AGAINST
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- **Advocate:** We speak out against book bans and advocate for policies that support intellectual freedom.
- **Empower:** We provide resources and support for individuals and groups working to protect books in their local communities.

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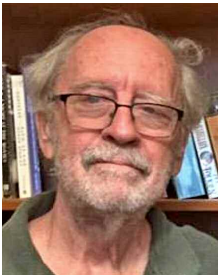


FEATURED PARTICIPANTS

More than 200 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, 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

All Fall Down: Poems 2020-2024

A lifelong Orleanian, **Ralph Adamo** has published nine books of poetry, the first two from Frank Stanford & C.D. Wright's Lost Roads Publishers. A selected volume, *Waterblind*, was published 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 was an NEA awarded in 2003. He teaches at Xavier University and edits *Xavier Review* and Xavier Review Press.

9:00 am to 10:00 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

The Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents Louisiana Poets, Volume 1

10:15 am to 11:00 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

The Life and Poetry of Frank Stanford



Constance Adler

Sight Unseen: A Novel

Constance Adler is the author of the novel *Sight Unseen* and a memoir, *My Bayou: New Orleans Through the Eyes of a Lover*. Her stories appeared in *River Teeth*, *Oxford American*, *Gambit Weekly*, *Utne Reader*, *Peauxdunque Review*, and *Blackbird*. Words & Music Literary Festival honored her story "Look" with a First-Place Award for Creative Nonfiction. *Sewanee Review* placed her story "Mother's Little Helper" as a Nonfiction Award finalist. She lives near Bayou Saint John in New Orleans.

Noon to 12:45 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

For Better or For Worse: The Moments that Define – and Decide – a Marriage

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Elaine M. Alexander

Anglerfish: The Seadevil of the Deep

As an author and a librarian, it is safe to say that books are a big part of **Elaine M. Alexander's** life! She enjoys sharing stories and library joy with patrons of all ages and has been known to dress up in character for story time. She has an impressive collection of hats to fit a variety of themes! She is a fan of dark mysteries and the natural world and remains fascinated by all things extraordinary and unique.

9:45 am to 10:15 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent D

Louisiana Readers' Choice Award Ceremony for Grades K to 2

12:30 pm to 1:00 pm

Children's Author Tent 3

Anglerfish: Seadevil of the Deep
(ages 4 to 8)

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Gary Alipio

Craziest Cajun Football Tale

A New Orleans native and LSU graduate, **Gary Alipio** wears a lot of hats: he's a children's book author, digital marketer, photographer, SCBWI regional advisor, a fishing aquatic instructor, and a high school bass fishing coach. As the second book in a series that started with *Craziest Fishing Tale on the Bayou*, this is his and his daughter's first book together. You can find his other crazy tales at GaryAlipio.com.

9:00 am to 9:30 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent C

Craziest Cajun Football Tale
(ages 7 to 13)

9:45 am to 10:30 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Melina Alipio

Craziest Cajun Football Tale

A student at Benjamin Franklin High School and the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, this is **Melina Alipio's** debut illustrated children's book. Follow her on Instagram - @melinaa_artz.

9:00 am to 9:30 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent C

Craziest Cajun Football Tale
(ages 7 to 13)

9:45 am to 10:30 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2025 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Aimee Ardonne

Moderator

Aimee Ardonne is a Branch Librarian with the Ascension Parish Library system in Louisiana and the 2025-2026 Second Vice President of the Louisiana Library Association. She has years of experience creating programs for patrons of all ages, with a special focus on early childhood. Ardonne is passionate about hands-on learning, social connection, and professional development, and she has presented at conferences including the Louisiana Library Association Conference and the Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival.

12:30 pm to 1:15 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent C

Swamps, Secrets, and Sallywags: Middle Grade Louisiana Adventures
(ages 8 to 14)



Jen Arena

Acorn Was a Little Wild

Jen Arena has been writing books for kids for over 20 years, both fiction and nonfiction, from board books to picture books to early chapter books. She lives near a park full of beautiful old oak trees in Tampa, Florida, which inspired her book *Acorn Was a Little Wild*. Arena has written a number of popular and award-winning books, including *Besos for Baby*, *Lady Liberty's Holiday*, and *Marta! Big and Small*.

9:45 am to 10:15 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent D

Louisiana Readers' Choice Award Ceremony for Grades K to 2

11:00 am to 11:30 am

Children's Author Tent 3

Acorn Was a Little Wild
(Ages 2 to 5)

11:45 am to 12:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



David Armand

Moderator

Recipient of the 2022 Louisiana Writer Award, **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 Assistant Professor of creative writing. An award-winning author, Armand has published four novels, three collections of poetry, and a memoir. A collection of his essays, *Mirrors*, was published by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Press in 2023.

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

What My Father and I Don't Talk About: Sixteen Writers Break the Silence

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Glenda Armand

Down on the Bayou

Glenda Armand was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. Before she turned one year old, her family moved to Los Angeles, California, becoming part of the Great Migration. Armand writes about this historical event in her book, *All Aboard the School Train*. Despite her West Coast childhood, she grew up eating the delicious Louisiana dishes that she describes in *Black-Eyed Peas and Hoghead Cheese*. Armand has had a long and fulfilling career as a teacher and a school librarian.

11:30 am to Noon

Children's Author Tent 2

Down on the Bayou
(ages 4 to 8)

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Brian Asman

*Man, F*ck This House (and Other Disasters)*

Brian Asman is a writer, actor, and director from San Diego. His books include *Good Dogs* and the viral indie novella sensation *Man, F*ck This House*. Find him on social media (@TheBrianAsman) or his website BrianAsmanBooks.com.

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

The Architecture of Evil: Haunted Houses, Broken Hearts, and Horror That Doesn't Hold Back

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Shannon Kelley Atwater

Fais Do-Do

Shannon Kelley Atwater is a New Orleans based author-illustrator. She paints in traditional mediums, mostly watercolors. When she's not working on books, you can find her dressed as a larger-than-life flower with Krewe des Fleurs. Atwater's other books that have previously been featured at the Louisiana Book Festival are *Alligators Don't Like Flowers* and *Goodnight Pothole*.

1:15 pm to 1:45 pm
Children's Author Tent 1
Fais Do-Do
(ages 5 to 8)

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



Daco S. Auffenorde

The Medici Curse: A Novel of Suspense

Daco S. Auffenorde's previous novel, *Cover Your Tracks*, was selected as a *Suspense Magazine* "Best of 2020" Thriller/Suspense and won Action Thriller of the Year with Best Thriller Book Awards. Lee Child says, "Sensational... I loved this book." Her novel, *The Forgotten Girl*, won the Book of the Year with Best Thriller Book Awards. In addition to writing, she serves as an attorney/mediator and resides in Huntsville, Alabama.

10:30 am to 11:30 am
State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials
Old Sins Cast Long Shadows: Suspense Thrillers

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



Larry Bagneris

Call Me Larry: A Creole Man's Triumph over Racism and Homophobia

A native New Orleanian, **Larry Bagneris** began his civil rights activism as a student at St. Augustine High School. After graduating from Xavier University, he moved to Houston, Texas, where he was a two-term president of the city's Gay Political Caucus and founder of Houston's Pride parade. Returning to New Orleans in the 1990s, he became a lobbyist for the NO/AIDS Task Force and served four mayoral administrations as director of New Orleans's Human Relations Commission.

11:15 am to Noon
Bienville Building, Conference Center 118
In the Shadow of the South:
Memoirs of Prejudice, Truth, and Hope

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm
Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing



Eva Semien Baham

Moderator

Dr. Eva Semien Baham is a native of Welsh, Louisiana. She received her BA in Journalism from Southern University and her MA and PhD in American Studies/History from Purdue University. She was an associate professor of history for 21 years at Southern University and then spent the last seven years of her career at Dillard University, retiring in 2023. Her work has appeared in numerous publications, such as *Louisiana History*, *Intersections*, *American Baptist Quarterly*, *African Americans in Covington*, *La Creole*, and *Black Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia*.

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm
Outside Museum, North Tent
Passageways and Foodways:
Slavery and Racism in the Formation of Southern Cities



Stacy Balkun

Moderator

Stacey Balkun is the author of *Sweetbitter* and co-editor of *Fiolet & Wing*. Winner of the New South Writing Contest, her creative and critical work has appeared in *Attached to the Living World*, *Best New Poets*, *Mississippi Review*, and several other anthologies and journals. Balkun holds a PhD in Literature from the University of Mississippi, Oxford, where she was awarded the Holdich Scholar Award, and an MFA in Poetry from Fresno State. She teaches online at The Poetry Barn and the University of New Orleans.

Noon to 12:45 pm
A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B
For Better or For Worse:
The Moments that Define – and Decide – a Marriage

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm
Bienville Building, Conference Center 118
Memoirs and Misadventures: Humorous Essays on
Growing Up, Giving Up, and Getting Wiser

2025 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



David T. Ballantyne

Fractured Freedoms: Reconstructing Central Louisiana

David T. Ballantyne is a senior lecturer in American history at Keele University and the author of *New Politics in the Old South: Ernest F. Hollings in the Civil Rights Era*.

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

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

State Library, Third Floor

Fractured Freedoms: Reconstructing Central Louisiana

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Charles J. Ballay

Blood Moon Over Bohemia

Charles J. Ballay is the district attorney of Plaquemines Parish and the coauthor of *Blood Moon Over Bohemia*. Ballay earned a law degree from LSU Law School in 1976 and began practicing law in Belle Chasse, Louisiana, that same year. In 1980, he began working as an assistant district attorney, and, in 2008, he was elected as the district attorney of Plaquemines Parish, a position that he continues to hold today.

Noon to 1:00 pm

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

Fiction from Fact: Louisiana Novels of Survival, Subterfuge, and the Human Spirit

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Nicole Beauchamp

Haunted French Quarter Hotels

Nicole Beauchamp is a world-renowned paranormal researcher and author based in Bay City, Michigan. She founded the Tri-City Ghost Hunters Society in 2009 following her first visit to New Orleans, Louisiana. Beauchamp has investigated haunted sites across the globe and her work has been featured in international publications including *That's Life*, the *Belfast Telegraph*, and *Sunday World*. In 2019, she appeared on the cover of *Paranormal Underground* and is affectionately known in New Orleans as "the local who is not a local."

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, Fourth Floor

Louisiana Spirits: Haunted History

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Cullen Bernard

The Wild Girl of Catahoula

Growing up, **Cullen Bernard** was captivated by the wonder of animation. As he got older, his love for storytelling evolved through the pages of comic books. Today, he combines those early influences with a passion for storytelling to create vibrant, character-driven illustrations. Whether crafting whimsical universes from scratch or collaborating with authors to bring their stories to life, his goal remains the same: to create art that sparks wonder, inspires joy, and lingers in the hearts of readers.

12:30 pm to 1:15 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent C

Swamps, Secrets, and Scallywags: Middle Grade Louisiana Adventures
(ages 8 to 14)

1:30 pm to 2:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Marcelle Bienvenu

Who's Your Mama, Are You Catholic, and Can You Make a Roux?

Marcelle Bienvenu is a renowned cookbook author and food writer specializing in Cajun and Creole cuisine since the 1960s. Her work has graced publications like *The Times Picayune*, *Garden & Gun*, and *The New York Times*. She authored *Cajun Cooking for Beginners* and co-edited the James Beard-nominated *Cooking Up a Storm*. Bienvenu collaborated with Emeril Lagasse on several cookbooks, including *Louisiana Real & Rustic*. She previously owned Chez Marcelle and worked at Commander's Palace and K-Paul's Louisiana Kitchen. A former instructor at the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute, she resides on Bayou Teche.

11:15 am to Noon

Cooking Demonstration Tent

Who's Your Mama, Are You Catholic, and Can You Make a Roux?

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Michael Birt

Michael the Wildlife Detective and the Haunted Mansion

Michael Birt is a wildlife conservationist, educator, and the founder of ResearchWild, a nonprofit dedicated to connecting people with nature through STEM education and immersive experiences. With a master's degree in animal behavior and a background at the Fort Worth Zoo, Fossil Rim, and Audubon Nature Institute, Birt has led conservation programs in Southeast Louisiana and Indonesia. He also created Michael the Wildlife Detective, a children's brand inspiring young minds to protect wildlife and solve nature's greatest mysteries.

9:30 am to 10:00 am

Children's Author Tent 3

Michael the Wildlife Detective and the Haunted Mansion
(ages 5 to 8)

10:15 am to 11:00 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Sam Nga Blum

McSweeney's Issue 78: The Make Believers

Sam Nga Blum is a graphic designer and illustrator living in New Orleans, Louisiana. Blum was born in Chicago, Illinois, raised in Houston, Texas, and schooled in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, receiving a BFA from Northern Michigan University. When not drawing, Blum spends her time petting dogs, gardening, bingeing audiobooks, and napping. See more of her work at SamNgaBlum.com.

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

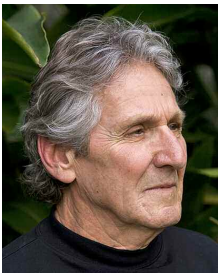
Bienville Building, Conference Center 118

Remembering, Reimagining, Becoming:
Vietnamese Identity 50 Years After the War

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Darrell Bourque

Moderator

Darrell Bourque is a former Louisiana poet laureate, the recipient of the 2014 Louisiana Writer Award, and the 2019 Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities Humanist of the Year Award. Among his poetry collections are *In Ordinary Light: New and Selected Poems* and *Megan's Guitar and Other Poems from Acadie*. His 2019 works, *From the Other Side: Henriette Delille* and *migraré*, are both sets of ekphrastic poems keyed to the paintings of Shreveport artist Bill Gingles.

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

A Conversation with Julie Kane



Teresa Tumminello Brader

Secret Keepers: Stories

Teresa Tumminello Brader, a native New Orleanian, gathers inspiration from the city, Lake Pontchartrain, and its denizens. Her books, *Letting in Air and Light*, a work of hybrid memoir/fiction, and *Secret Keepers*, a short story collection, are from Belle Point Press. The former was honored as one of three nominees for the 2025 One Book One New Orleans citywide read and literary outreach. She has a BA in English from Marquette University.

10:00 am to 11:00 am

Bienville Building, Conference Center 118

The Past Isn't Dead:
Memoirs at the Crossroads of Violence and Voice

2:15 pm to 3:15 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Between Confession and Concealment:
Short Stories of the Modern Soul

3:30 pm to 4:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Amanda Hampton Bravender

Bébés, Beauty & Bees: Making Fancy Look Easy

Amanda Hampton Bravender is not your ordinary hair and makeup artist; she is a culinary aficionado, lifestyle influencer, and avid storyteller. As a dedicated homesteader, she and her husband are building their dream apiary, rescuing and relocating bees to their farm. In her spare time, Amanda volunteers with 4-H, teaching children the joys of growing food, beekeeping, and horsemanship. She also shares her expertise through makeup workshops, raising funds for local theater companies and empowering others to feel beautiful inside and out.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Cooking Demonstration Tent

Bébés, Beauty & Bees: Making Fancy Look Easy

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2025 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Daniel Brook

The Einstein of Sex: Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld, Visionary of Weimar Berlin

Daniel Brook is a journalist and author whose writing has appeared in *Harper's*, the *New York Times Magazine*, and *The Nation*. Research for his books, which include *A History of Future Cities* and *The Accident of Color: A Story of Race in Reconstruction*, has been supported by fellowships from the Library of Congress, Tulane University, and the Biographers International Organization (BIO). Born in Brooklyn, New York, and educated at Yale, Brook lives in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Noon to 12:45 pm

Outside Museum, North Tent

The Einstein of Sex:

Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld, Visionary of Weimar Berlin

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Catharine Savage Brosman

Metates and Other Poems
Partial Memoirs

Catharine Savage Brosman, professor emerita of French at Tulane University, is known internationally for her 18 volumes on French literature, four on American literature, and 15 collections of poetry (six at LSU Press). Additionally, she has published three collections of informal essays, a volume of short fiction titled *An Aesthetic Education and Other Stories*, and, most recently, *Partial Memoirs*. She divides her time between Houston, Texas, and New Orleans, Louisiana, her favorite city.

9:00 am to 10:00 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

The Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents Louisiana Poets, Volume 1

10:15 am to 11:00 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

The Art of Remembrance: Literary Memoirs on the Shaping of Identity

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Thi Bui

McSweeney's Issue 78: The Make Believers
The Best We Could Do: An Illustrated Memoir

Thi Bui is a writer and artist from Viet Nam, California, and New York, now planting roots in New Orleans, Louisiana. Best known for her graphic memoir, *The Best We Could Do*, she has also been a longtime educator in public high schools, a professor of comics, an organizer and artist-activist, an ambivalent sculptor and puppeteer, and a fledgling screenwriter. She received a Caldecott Honor as the illustrator of her first children's book, *A Different Pond*, by Bao Phi.

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

Bienville Building, Conference Center 118

Remembering, Reimagining, Becoming:

Vietnamese Identity 50 Years After the War

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Elizabeth Burk

Unmoored: Poems

Elizabeth Burk is a psychologist by profession and a native New Yorker who divides her time between family in New York and a home and husband in southwest Louisiana. She is the author of *Unmoored* and has three previous collections: *Learning to Love Louisiana*, *Louisiana Purchase*, and *Duet-Poet & Photographer*—a collaboration with her photographer husband. Her poems, prose pieces, and reviews have been published in numerous journals and anthologies.

9:00 am to 10:00 am

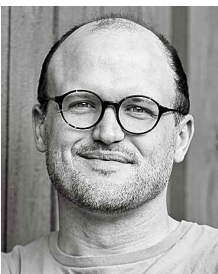
Outside Museum, West Tent

The Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents Louisiana Poets, Volume 1

10:15 am to 11:00 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Robert Busby

Bodock: Stories

Robert Busby is the author of *Bodock: Stories*, which won the C. Michael Curtis Short Story Book Prize. His stories have appeared in *Pleiades*, *PANK*, *Mississippi Noir*, *Cold Mountain Review*, *Sou'wester*, *Arkansas Review*, and *Surreal South*. A native of north Mississippi, he now lives and writes in Memphis, Tennessee, with his wife, two kids, a Plott hound, and a shepherd-terrier mix. Currently, he's working on a literary crime novel also set during the 1994 Mid-South Ice Storm.

10:45 am to 11:45 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Southern Currents:

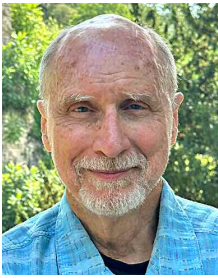
Short Stories of Place, People, and Possibility

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Robert Olen Butler

Twice Around a Marriage

Robert Olen Butler has published 19 novels and six volumes of short stories, one of which, *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain*, won the 1993 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. In 2014, he was the 17th recipient of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Award for Outstanding Achievement in American Literature. He teaches creative writing at Florida State University and his book on fiction writing, *From Where You Dream*, has been widely influential.

11:00 am to 11:45 am

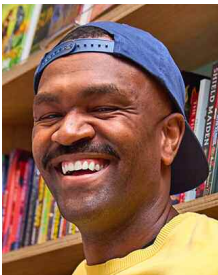
State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Twice Around a Marriage

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Jesse Byrd

Dream Warriors: A New World

Jesse Byrd is an international award-winning children's book author. After working at Google in Silicon Valley and later EY in Dubai as Director of Communications for Middle East and North Africa, Byrd turned his energy toward his deepest love: making stories for youth and families with a focus on supporting artists worldwide creating #own voices material. He's written six children's books and helped produce over 40 others as an editor, art director, and publishing consultant.

10:30 am to 11:30 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent D

Beyond Words: Middle Grade Graphic Novels

(ages 8 to 14)

11:45 am to 12:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Eiren Caffall

All the Water in the World: A Novel

Eiren Caffall is a writer and musician. Her work on loss, oceans, and extinction has appeared in *Orion*, *Guernica*, *The LA Review of Books*, *Al Jazeera*, and the anthology *Elementals*. She has received a 2023 Whiting Creative Nonfiction Grant, a Social Justice News Nexus fellowship, and a 3Arts Make a Wave grant. Her books include her award-winning memoir, *The Mourner's Bestiary*, and her novel, *All the Water in the World*.

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

Fiction After the End:

Building, Surviving, and Seeing the World Anew

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Ruth Caillouet

Voices and Visions: Essays on New Orleans's Literary History

For over 40 years, **Ruth Caillouet** has enjoyed teaching English courses—from middle school through graduate school. As a tenured English professor at Clayton State University and then an Associate Dean of Education at Georgia Gwinnett College, she trained future teachers and continued her research of texts as varied as Toni Morrison's novels, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, and LGBTQI+ YA literature. She now serves as a content specialist at Pearson where she develops English Language Arts assessments.

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Voices and Visions:

Essays on New Orleans's Literary History

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Richard Campanella

Crossroads, Cutoffs, and Confluences: Origins of Louisiana Cities, Towns, and Villages

Richard Campanella is professor of geography and associate dean for research at the Tulane School of Architecture. Recipient of the 2019 Louisiana Writer Award and named Knight in the Order of the Academic Palms by the French government, Campanella has written numerous books and articles about Louisiana history and geography, including *Draining New Orleans: The 300-Year Quest to Dewater the Crescent City*.

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

Crossroads, Cutoffs, and Confluences:

Origins of Louisiana Cities, Towns, and Villages

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2025 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Emily Carpenter

Gothictown: 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 now lives in Atlanta, Georgia, with her family.

10:30 am to 11:30 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

Old Sins Cast Long Shadows: Suspense Thrillers

11:45 am to 12:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Tracy Carr

Moderator

Tracy Carr is a researcher, editor, and writer in Jackson, Mississippi. She is the editor of *Conversations with Ellen Gilchrist*, forthcoming from the University Press of Mississippi in December 2025, and editor of the "Mississippi Books" page in the *Clarion Ledger* and *Hattiesburg American* newspapers. She serves on the board of the Mississippi Book Festival.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

Sickly Vapors: Disease and Doctoring in the Old South

11:00 am to 11:45 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

America's Greatest Library: An Illustrated History of the Library of Congress

Noon to 1:00 pm

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

Fiction from Fact: Louisiana Novels of Survival, Subterfuge, and the Human Spirit

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

The Art of Remembrance: Literary Memoirs on the Shaping of Identity



Laura Carroll

Geaux Boudreaux

Laura Carroll was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. She is a real estate attorney who enjoys fishing, painting, all things Mardi Gras, and family dinners with her husband and three young children. She is also the author of *Rainbow Rodney*, published by Pelican.

2:30 pm to 3:00 pm

Children's Author Tent 2

Geaux Boudreaux

(ages 5 to 8)

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Mary C. Carruth

Voices and Visions: Essays on New Orleans's Literary History

Originally from New Orleans, Louisiana, **Mary C. Carruth** is an associate professor of English at Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge. In 2006, she edited a critical collection, *Feminist Interventions in Early American Studies*, which includes her essay on Mary Rowlandson's representation of the body. More recently, she has published articles or presented papers on Anne Bradstreet, Anne Hutchinson, Kenneth Burke, Frank X Walker, and Suzan-Lori Parks. Her interests include life-writings, American and women's literatures, feminist theories, critical pedagogy, and women's and gender studies.

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

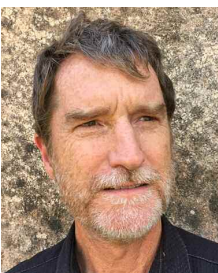
Voices and Visions:

Essays on New Orleans's Literary History

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Charles D. Chamberlain

New Orleans: A Concise History of an Exceptional City

Charles D. Chamberlain is a historian, tour guide, museum professional, and musician. He specializes in the histories, music, and cultures of Louisiana, the United States, Latin America, and the Mediterranean Basin. Chamberlain is the author of *Victory at Home: Manpower and Race in the American South During World War II*, as well as numerous articles on the history of New Orleans music. He currently teaches the history of New Orleans and its music at the University of New Orleans.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, Fourth Floor

Let the Music Speak:

Tracking the Sounds That Changed Everything

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

State Library, Third Floor

Exceptional City, Dangerous Frontier:

Unpacking New Orleans History

3:00 pm to 3:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Johnnie Christmas

Swim Team
Gamerville

Johnnie Christmas is a #1 *New York Times* bestselling graphic novelist and author of *Gamerville*. His debut middle-grade graphic novel, *Swim Team*, was longlisted for a National Book Award, received a Coretta Scott King Award Illustrator Honor, BCALA Literary Award, Black-Eyed Susan Award, Maud Hart Lovelace Award, and Yellowhammer Award among several other honors. He co-created the Angel Catbird series with celebrated writer Margaret Atwood and the sci-fi series Tartarus. He is a graduate of the Pratt Institute.

9:00 am to 9:30 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent D

Young Readers' Choice Award Ceremony for Grades 6 to 8

10:30 am to 11:30 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent D

Beyond Words: Middle Grade Graphic Novels
(ages 8 to 14)

11:45 am to 12:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Julie Clark

The Ghostwriter: A Novel

Julie Clark is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Lies I Tell* and *The Last Flight*, both of which were also #1 international bestsellers and have been translated into more than 25 languages. Her new book, *The Ghostwriter*, is available now. She lives in Los Angeles with her family and dogs.

11:45 am to 12:45 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

The Fictional Façade:

Thrillers About Hidden Lives, Obsession, and Family Secrets

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Casi Cole

Moon Cat

Casi Cole is a New Orleans-based children's author, Tulane English graduate, and certified health coach. She blends storytelling with holistic wellness to support children and their caregivers. Through her work, she makes calming guided visualizations and imaginative tales accessible tools that support learning, connection, and well-being. She's also a mom to two children, a cat, and a rabbit - her daily reminder that magic, messes, and stories belong together.

1:15 pm to 1:45 pm

Children's Author Tent 3

Moon Cat

(ages 6 to 9)

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



John Y. Cole

America's Greatest Library: An Illustrated History of the Library of Congress

Librarian and historian **John Y. Cole** dedicated his 55-year career to increasing public understanding of the key role the Library of Congress plays in American life. He served as founding director of the Center for the Book and was instrumental in the creation of the National Book Festival. He launched the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature program and founded the Library of Congress Literacy Awards program. He was appointed as the Library's first official historian in 2016.

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

11:00 am to 11:45 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

America's Greatest Library:

An Illustrated History of the Library of Congress

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Gavin Cologne-Brookes

Portraits from Paris: School and Travel Remembered from the City of Light

Gavin Cologne-Brookes is professor emeritus at Bath Spa University. Educated in England and the United States, he lived in Paris between 2019-2024 to pursue his passion for oil painting. His portraits of Arthur Miller, William Styron, Joyce Carol Oates, and Bruce Springsteen are on loan display at the Rothermere American Institute, University of Oxford.

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

The Art of Remembrance:

Literary Memoirs on the Shaping of Identity

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2025 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Kaye N. Courington

Scrim: A New Orleans Story of Resilience & Rescue

Beyond her distinguished legal career, **Kaye Courington** is deeply committed to community service, serving on the boards of the LA/MS Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, the Louise S. McGehee School, the Newcomb Institute Advisory Council, and the Ogden Museum of Southern Art. Originally from Savannah, Georgia, Courington has called New Orleans home for over 40 years. In a testament to her dedication to animal welfare, all proceeds from her royalties will be donated to rescue organizations such as Zeus's Rescue and the Humane Society of Louisiana.

11:30 am to 12:15 pm

Children's Author Tent 1

The Dog Who Wouldn't Quit:

Scrim's Big City Tales of Escape and Rescue

(all ages)

12:30 pm to 1:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Eli Cranor

Mississippi Blue 42: A Novel

Nationally bestselling, Edgar Award-winning author **Eli Cranor** played quarterback at every level, peewee to professional. These days, he serves as the "Writer in Residence" at Arkansas Tech, where he also lends his eye—and sometimes, his arm—to the university's football team. Cranor's column, "Where I'm Writing From," appears weekly in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. His previous works include *Don't Know Tough*, *Ozark Dogs*, and *Broiler*.

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Outside Museum, South Tent

Unquiet Communities:

Myth, Murder, and the Search for Justice

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Juliette Cross

Firebird

Juliette Cross is a *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of fantasy, paranormal, and contemporary romance. She's a mood reader as well as a mood writer if that wasn't obvious by her eclectic book list. As a native of Louisiana, she is inspired by the moss-laden trees and slow-moving bayou of her home as well as the Gothic setting of nearby New Orleans. She loves lazy nights with her husband, old-fashioned, and family gatherings.

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Hearts Ablaze: Where Romance Meets Fantasy

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Pearson Cross

Bayou Dilemma: Louisiana in Crisis and Change

Dr. Pearson Cross is Professor and Director of the School of Behavioral and Social Sciences at the University of Louisiana at Monroe where he teaches courses in Louisiana and American politics. His most recent book is *The Party is Over: The New Louisiana Politics* with Christie Maloyed, was published by LSU press in 2022. He hosts a bi-monthly public affairs radio program on Louisiana politics, *Bayou to Beltway*, on Monroe, Louisiana's NPR affiliate station, KEDM 90.3 FM.

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Bayou Dilemma: Louisiana in Crisis and Change

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



K. Scott Culpepper

The Demonologists' Daughters

K. Scott Culpepper is an author, historian, and speaker creatively exploring the history and mystery of human experiences. He holds a PhD from Baylor University and specializes in the history of the Atlantic World. His nonfiction book *Francis Johnson and the English Separatist Influence* was published by Mercer University Press in 2011. He teaches courses in history and religious studies at a private university in Iowa where he lives with his wife, Ginger.

9:30 am to 10:15 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

Speak of the Devil:

Where Music, Madness, and Murder Meet

10:30 am to 11:15 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS

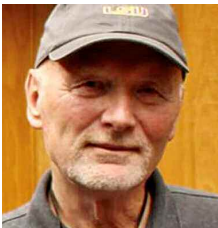


Alexandra Navarre Davis
Beignet Bunny

A native of Lafayette, Louisiana, **Alexandra Navarre Davis** currently resides in New Orleans with her family. She received two undergraduate degrees from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and a Juris Doctor from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. She is also a proud alumna of the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Coteau, Louisiana. She practices employment law and is an adjunct professor of law at Tulane Law School. Davis has always had a love of literature and dreamed of writing children's picture books.

9:45 am to 10:15 am
Children's Author Tent 1
Beignet Bunny
(ages 5 to 8)

10:30 am to 11:15 am
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.

9:30 am to 10:30 am
A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B
Hit the Road: Modern Literary Odysseys

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



Delilah S. Dawson
Camp Scare
Ride or Die
House of Idyll

Delilah S. Dawson is the *New York Times*-bestselling, award-winning author of novels and comics for all ages, including *Star Wars: Phasma*, *Dungeons & Dragons Ravenloft: Heir of Strahd*, *The Violence*, *Midnight at the Houdini*, *Mine*, *Ride or Die*, the *Minecraft Mob Squad* series, and the *Hit* series. With Kevin Hearne, she writes the *Tales of Pell* series. Her comics include *Marvel Action Spider-Man*, *Adventure Time*, *Star Wars Adventures*, *Disney Descendants*, and the creator-owned *Ladycastle*. Visit her online at DelilahSDawson.com.

9:00 am to 9:30 am
A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent D
Young Readers' Choice Award Ceremony for Grades 6 to 8

10:45 am to 11:45 am
Outside Museum, South Tent
Grave Humor: Cults, Killers, and the Dark Sides of Community

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

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm
A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent D
Secrets, Swashbucklers, and Spooky School Nights: Middle Grade Mayhem
(ages 8 to 14)

2:15 pm to 3:15 pm
A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent D
Everything but Typical: Influential Neurodivergent People Who Have Shaped the World
(all ages)

3:30 pm to 4:15 pm
Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing



Cassandra de Alba
Poet

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. Visit her at CassandradeAlba.com

Noon to 4:00 pm
State Library, Lobby
Poetry-to-Order



Daren Dean
Shelter Me: A Novel
The New Salvation and Other Stories

Daren Dean is the author of *Far Beyond the Pale*, *I'll Still Be Here Long After You're Gone: Stories*, *The Black Harvest: A Novel of the American Civil War*, *This Vale of Tears*, *Roads*, and *Lovesick*, a prose chapbook. *The Black Harvest* was nominated for the Pen/Faulkner, the W. Y. Boyd Literary Award for Excellence in Military Fiction, and the Midlands Author Award. *Roads* was a featured Indie review in *Kirkus Reviews* in 2023. Dean is an Associate Professor of English and Creative Writing at Lincoln University of Missouri.

Noon to 1:00 pm
State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room
Fiction from Fact: Louisiana Novels of Survival, Subterfuge, and the Human Spirit

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm
Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing

2:15 pm to 3:15 pm
A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B
Between Confession and Concealment: Short Stories of the Modern Soul

3:30 pm to 4:15 pm
Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing

2025 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Adam Dennis

Gary & Mary, Quite Contrary

Author **Adam Dennis** earned his Juris Doctorate from Capital University Law School in Columbus, Ohio. His various professions, including attorney, sous-chef, and touring musician, have all influenced his work. Dennis is the author of the Gary the Gator series of children's books and lives with his wife and two children in New Orleans, Louisiana.

10:00 am to 10:30 am

Children's Author Tent 2

Gary & Mary, Quite Contrary
(ages 5 to 8)

10:45 am to 11:30 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Nancy Dixon

Voices and Visions: Essays on New Orleans's Literary History

Nancy Dixon is an associate professor and chair of English at Dillard University, where she teaches all levels writing and literature courses, including New Orleans, American, and African American literature. She is the editor of the 2013 collection *N.O. Lit.: 200 Years of New Orleans Literature*, and more recently of the city's official Tricentennial Anthology, *New Orleans & the World*. She has been writing and publishing books and articles on New Orleans and Louisiana writers and literature for over 25 years.

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Voices and Visions:
Essays on New Orleans's Literary History

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Laurie L. Dove

Mask of the Deer Woman: A Novel

Laurie L. Dove is an award-winning journalist, professor, and the *Instant USA Today* bestselling author of *Mask of the Deer Woman*, a suspenseful mystery *The New York Times* called a "best new release" and *The Seattle Times* called "a powerful read for fans of dark, riveting stories rooted in justice and resilience." Her second book releases Fall 2026. Dove earned a graduate degree from Harvard University; she is writing her third and fourth novels. Learn more at LaurieDove.com

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

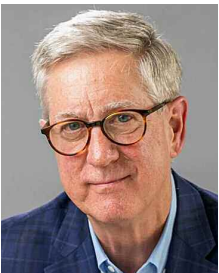
Outside Museum, South Tent

Unquiet Communities:
Myth, Murder, and the Search for Justice

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Clancy DuBos

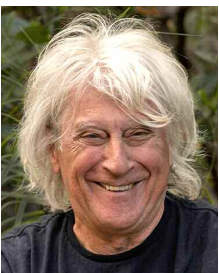
Moderator

Clancy DuBos has been an award-winning reporter, editor, and columnist in New Orleans, Louisiana, since 1973. He retired at the end of 2024 after a long stint as the political editor of *Gambit* weekly and, since 2022, as an Editorial Board member at *The Times-Picayune/The Advocate*. His political commentaries still air Tuesdays on WWL-TV (CBS-New Orleans). DuBos often appears as an expert on Louisiana politics on local, national, and international networks, and he has helped write and edit several books on Louisiana politics and other topics.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

Fathers and Sons:
Exploring Grief, Redemption, and Family Ties



John Dufresne

My Darling Boy: A Novel

John Dufresne has written the novels *Louisiana Power & Light*, *Love Warps the Mind a Little* (both *New York Times* Notable Books of the Year), *Deep in the Shade of Paradise*, *Requiem, Mass.*, *No Regrets*, *Coyote*, *I Don't Like Where This Is Going*, and *My Darling Boy*; two story collections, *The Way That Water Enters Stone* and *Johnny Too Bad*; and four books on writing, *The Lie That Tells a Truth*, *Is Life Like This?*, *Storyville*, and *Flash!: the Art of Writing the Very Short Story*. He teaches at Florida International University.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

Fathers and Sons:
Exploring Grief, Redemption, and Family Ties

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Lindsey Duga
Royal Heirs Academy

Lindsey Duga is a YA and middle grade author from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Her most recent novel is a YA contemporary drama titled *Royal Heirs Academy* with Christy Ottaviano Books / Little Brown Books for Young Readers, with an upcoming sequel in 2026. She also writes spooky middle grade ghost stories for Scholastic Clubs and Fairs.

1:30 pm to 2:15 pm
A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent C
Royals & Romance: Contemporary Young Adult Fiction
(ages 12 and up)

2:30 pm to 3:15 pm
Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing



Colleen Dulle
Struck Down, Not Destroyed: Keeping the Faith as a Vatican Reporter

Colleen Dulle is a Vatican Correspondent at *America Magazine* and host of the podcast "Inside the Vatican." She was an ABC News Contributor for the 2025 papal conclave and has commented on Vatican news for the BBC, CBC, and MSNBC, among others. She lives in New Orleans, Louisiana, with her husband, son, and dog.

9:00 am to 9:45 am
A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A
Shreveport Martyr Father Jean Pierre: Fearful Steps Strengthened by Hope

11:15 am to Noon
A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A
Struck Down, Not Destroyed: Keeping the Faith as a Vatican Reporter

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm
Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing



Marti Dumas
Nina and the Keeper of the Keystone: Secret Society of Rebel Girls

Marti Dumas is a mom, teacher, writer, and creative entrepreneur from New Orleans, Louisiana. An expert in childhood literacy, Dumas has worked with children and teachers across the country for the last 15 years to promote an early love of reading both in and out of the classroom. Her best-selling Jaden Toussaint, the Greatest series combines literacy with STEM skills and humor and adds much-needed diversity to the children's chapter book landscape.

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm
A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent D
Secrets, Swashbucklers, and Spooky School Nights: Middle Grade Mayhem
(ages 8 to 14)

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



Edward J. Dupuy
Voices and Visions: Essays on New Orleans's Literary History

Edward Dupuy is the author of *Autobiography in Walker Percy: Repetition, Recovery, and Redemption* and more recently *Recollections on a Road Between: A Story of My Life*. He has published essays on William Alexander Percy, Frederick Douglass, Richard Ford, and Lewis Nordan, among others. A retired senior administrator at a variety of colleges, Dupuy co-hosts the podcast, "Artists Telling Stories." He lives in Tacoma, Washington, as a transplanted Southerner.

9:00 am to 9:45 am
State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center
Voices and Visions: Essays on New Orleans's Literary History

10:00 am to 10:45 am
Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing



John W. Durel
Descendants: The Divided Lineage of a Louisiana Creole Family

An eighth-generation Louisianian, **John W. Durel** was raised in Thibodaux during segregation. Following college and military service, he earned a PhD in history at the University of New Hampshire and went on to work with museums nationwide and internationally. He has published articles on cultural leadership and management, directed the Seminar for Historical Administration, and received an Award of Distinction from the American Association for State and Local History. *Descendants* is his first book.

Noon to 12:45 pm
Outside Museum, South Tent
The Creole Gumbo of Identity: Lineage, Passing, and the Ingredients of Race

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

2025 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Kristie Guillory Edmondson

Pelican State Princess Slippers

Lake Charles, Louisiana, native **Kristie Guillory Edmondson** earned a BA in Visual Arts from McNeese State University and then attended University of Louisiana Lafayette, where she earned an MA in Speech Pathology. She has worked in Iberia Parish with the special education office for 20 years as a speech pathologist. Edmondson lives in Lafayette with her husband and twin teenagers. *Pelican State Princess Slippers* is about Louisiana shrimp boot culture and is her first official publication.

10:45 am to 11:15 am

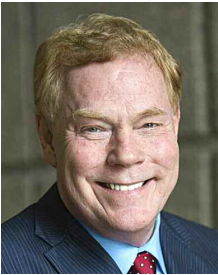
Children's Author Tent 2

The Pelican State Princess Slippers
(ages 5 to 8)

11:30 am to 12:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Jim Engster

Moderator

Award-winning journalist and broadcast veteran Jim Engster serves as president of the Louisiana Radio Network and *Tiger Rag* magazine. In a career spanning more than three decades, he has interviewed 11 Louisiana governors and has reported on every gubernatorial election since 1975. His syndicated program, *Talk Louisiana with Jim Engster*, can be heard on WRKF every weekday as Engster engages listeners with compelling discussions on topics from presidential and gubernatorial campaigns to LSU football to the aftermath of disasters like Hurricane Isaac.

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

The Etruscans and the Jews:
New Orleans Echoes, Sardinian Shadows, Roman Shame



Desiree S. Evans

The Black Girl Survives in This One: Horror Stories

Desiree S. Evans is a writer and editor from south Louisiana. She is co-editor of the indie-bestselling young-adult horror anthology, *The Black Girl Survives in This One*. She holds an MFA in Fiction from the Michener Center for Writers at The University of Texas at Austin, as well as degrees in journalism from Northwestern University and international affairs from Columbia University. Visit her on the web at Desiree-Evans.com, and on Instagram and Twitter: @literarydesiree.

2:30 pm to 3:15 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent C

How to Survive a Young Adult Horror Novel (or Die Trying)
(ages 12 and up)

3:30 pm to 4:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Virginia Evans

The Youngest Bee: A Louisiana Story of Sisterhood, Strength, & Alzheimer's

Virginia Evans is the sixth child of Mildred and Red Evans. She grew up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with five older siblings whose ages spanned 22 years. Her parents raised her to love LSU football, home cooked meals, and precious time with her family. Evans graduated from LSU and LSU Law School. When not working, she enjoys sharing her valuable experience as a caregiver as well as helping others cope with aging parents.

9:00 am to 9:45 am

Bienville Building, Conference Center 118

Tender Battles: Fighting for Dignity in the Face of Decline and Bureaucracy

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Jonathan Evison

The Heart of Winter: A Novel

Jonathan Evison is the author of the novels *Again and Again*; *Small World*; *All About Lulu*; *West of Here*; *The Revised Fundamentals of Caregiving*; *This Is Your Life*; *Harriet Chance!*; *Lawn Boy*; and *Legends of the North Cascades*. He lives with his wife and family in Washington State. He hosts the podcast *A Fresh Face in Hell*.

Noon to 12:45 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

For Better or For Worse:
The Moments that Define – and Decide – a Marriage

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Hank Ewert

Let the Music Speak: Tracking the Sounds that Changed Everything, 1945-1950

Hank Ewert grew up in Kingsville and Riviera, Texas. His older brother Bill introduced him to rock and roll before he learned to read – which evidently had an impact! Ewert worked in education for 47 years; however, his passion has always been music — reading about it, listening to it, collecting it, and talking it. His fascination with blues (especially Antone's Blues Club in Austin, Texas) earned him a role as correspondent for *Living Blues* magazine in the late eighties and early nineties.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, Fourth Floor

Let the Music Speak: Tracking the Sounds that Changed Everything, 1945-1950

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Malaika Favorite

After Color

Hurricanes Katrina & Rita at 20: An Anthology of Louisiana Poetry with Art

Malaika Favorite is a visual artist and writer whose publications include *Dreaming at the Manor* and *Illuminated Manuscript*. She won the 2015 Broadside Lotus Press Naomi Long Madgett Poetry Award for *Ascension*. Her poetry, fiction, and articles have appeared in numerous anthologies and journals. Favorite also won the 2022 April Gloaming Publishing, Moon Meridian Novella Award for her novella: *The Author Project*, published in January 2024.

11:15 am to Noon

Outside Museum, West Tent

Hurricanes Katrina & Rita at 20: An Anthology of Louisiana Poetry with Art

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

Fiction After the End: Building, Surviving, and Seeing the World Anew

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Alison Fensterstock

How Women Made Music: A Revolutionary History from NPR Music

Alison Fensterstock has been a music critic and feature writer in New Orleans for *Gambit Weekly*, the *Times-Picayune* and the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities' 64 *Parishes* magazine, with work also appearing in *Pitchfork*, *Rolling Stone*, the *Oxford American*, *MOJO*, the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, NPR Music, and other places. She's been a DJ on the award-winning jazz and heritage radio station WWOZ-FM for almost exactly 20 years. Her next book is the biography *Don't Be Boring: The Life, Art and Obsessions of Bunny Matthews*.

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

State Library, Fourth Floor

How Women Made Music: A Revolutionary History from NPR Music

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Gina Ferrara

Louisiana Poet Laureate

Poet Laureate of Louisiana **Gina Ferrara** has published five poetry collections including her latest, *Amiss*. Her work has appeared in numerous journals including *Callaloo*, *The Poetry Ireland Review*, and *The Southern Review* and been nominated for a Best of the Net and a Pushcart in 2024. 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.

9:00 am to 10:00 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

The Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents Louisiana Poets, Volume 1

10:15 am to 11:00 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

Poet Laureate to Poet Laureate

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Outside Museum, West Tent

The Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents Louisiana Poets, Volume 2

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Outside Museum, West Tent

From Borough to Bayou: A Conversation Between the State Poet Laureates

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2025 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Robert W. Fieseler

American Scare: Florida's Hidden Cold War on Black and Queer Lives

Robert W. Fieseler is a journalist investigating marginalized groups and a scholar excavating forgotten histories. A National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association 'Journalist of the Year' and a recipient of the Pulitzer Traveling Fellowship, his debut book *Tinderbox* won seven awards, including the Edgar Award, and his reporting has appeared in *Slate*, *64 Parishes*, and *River Teeth*, among others. Fieseler is pursuing a PhD at Tulane University as a Mellon Fellow and lives with his husband on the gayest street in New Orleans.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Outside Museum, North Tent

American Scare:

Florida's Hidden Cold War on Black and Queer Lives

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Michele Filgate

What My Father and I Don't Talk About: Sixteen Writers Break the Silence

Michele Filgate is the editor of *What My Mother and I Don't Talk About*. Her writing has appeared in *Longreads*, *Poets & Writers*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Paris Review Daily*, *Tin House*, *Gulf Coast*, *Oprah Daily*, and many other publications. She received her MFA in fiction from New York University, where she was the recipient of the Stein Fellowship. Filgate teaches writing at The New School.

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

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

What My Father and I Don't Talk About:

Sixteen Writers Break the Silence

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Keith M. Finley

Bayou Dilemma: Louisiana in Crisis and Change

Keith M. Finley, PhD is associate professor of history at Southeastern Louisiana University and the assistant director of the Center for Southeast Louisiana Studies. He is the author of *From Slavery to Segregation: Reckoning with White Supremacy in the American South* and the award-winning book *Delaying the Dream: Southern Senators and the Fight Against Civil Rights, 1938-1965*.

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Bayou Dilemma: Louisiana in Crisis and Change

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Jordan LaHaye Fontenot

Home of the Happy: A Murder on the Cajun Prairie

A recipient of Louisiana State University's 2018 Sarah Sue Goldsmith Award for Nonfiction, **Jordan LaHaye Fontenot's** work has appeared in *Oxford American*, *Atlas Obscura*, and others. Her work has been published most extensively in the Louisiana arts and culture magazine, *Country Roads*, which she has overseen as editor since 2018.

10:00 am to 11:00 am

Bienville Building, Conference Center 118

The Past Isn't Dead:

Memoirs at the Crossroads of Violence and Voice

11:15 am to Noon

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Michael C. Forest

She Danced with a Redfish: A Play in Two Acts

As a consistent leading man, **Michael C. Forest** has dazzled theater audiences throughout the Crescent City, receiving the 2020 Big Easy Best Actor Award for his portrayal of Walter Lee Younger in Lorraine Hansberry's *Raisin in the Sun*. An organically trained actor with professional stage and film credits, Forest was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana.

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

State Library, Fourth Floor

Scenes from She Danced with a Redfish

3:00 pm to 3:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

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CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Dennis Formento

Phaeton's Wheels

Dennis Formento's books include *Phaeton's Wheels*, *Spirit Vessels*, *Looking for an Out Place*, and *Cineplex*. He was an editor of bioregional magazine *Mesechabe: The Journal of Surregionalism*, from 1991 to 2001. Formento founded Surregional Press, which published Darlene Fife's memoir, *Portraits from Memory: New Orleans in the Sixties* in 2000, John Sinclair's *Fattening Frogs for Snakes: Delta Sound Suite* in 2002, and *Ungulations: Ten Waves (Under the Hoof)* by A. di Michele and Amy Trussell in 2011.

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Outside Museum, West Tent

The Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents Louisiana Poets, Volume 2

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Philip Fracassi

The Autumn Springs Retirement Home Massacre

Philip Fracassi is the Bram Stoker and British Fantasy Award-nominated author of six novels, three story collections, and more than 20 published short stories. His work has been translated into half a dozen languages, and his stories have appeared in publications such as *Best Horror of the Year*, *Nightmare Magazine*, *Interzone*, and *Southwest Review*. His screenplays have been produced by Disney and Lifetime, and his work has been optioned by multiple studios and production companies.

10:45 am to 11:45 am

Outside Museum, South Tent

Grave Humor:

Cults, Killers, and the Dark Sides of Community

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Kiki Frayard

Lila Said No

Kiki Frayard is a former creative director, copy writer, and advertising agency owner. For 20 years she owned her eponymous jewelry and clothing store with locations in Lafayette and Baton Rouge. In 2022, she sold her business to her daughter and fulfilled a lifelong dream to write children's books. She lives in Lafayette with her cat Maxine in a house filled with toys, games, children's books, and more often than not, three grandchildren.

10:15 am to 10:45 am

Children's Author Tent 3

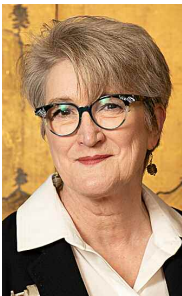
Lila Said No

(ages 3 to 7)

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Jane and Michael Frederick

Contemporary Southern Vernacular: Creating Sustainable Houses for Hot, Humid Climates

Jane and Michael Frederick established Frederick + Frederick Architects in Beaufort, South Carolina, in 1989. Their work focuses on merging Southern vernacular traditions with the latest technology for optimal building in hot, humid climates. They have received numerous awards for their projects and have been featured in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Southern Living*, *Garden & Gun*, and *This Old House*. Both earned a Bachelor of Architecture from Auburn University and are LEED Accredited Professionals.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

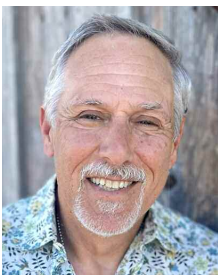
Bienville Building, Conference Center 173

Contemporary Southern Vernacular: Creating Sustainable Houses for Hot, Humid Climates

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Tripp Friedler

The Tunnel: A Memoir

Tripp Friedler is Heidi's husband, a father, a business owner, and a philanthropist. He's donating 100% of his proceeds from *The Tunnel* to mental health organizations. His first book was *FreeGulliver: Six Swift Lessons in Life Planning*. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Amherst College and a law degree from Tulane. Friedler is an Accredited Estate Planner (AEP) and has finished all class requirements for a master's in counseling at Loyola University.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

Fathers and Sons:

Exploring Grief, Redemption, and Family Ties

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2025 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Olivia Clare Friedman

An Arm Fixed to a Wing: Poems

Dr. Olivia Clare Friedman is the author of four books, most recently the poetry collection *An Arm Fixed to a Wing* from LSU Press. She is also the author of the novel *Here Lies*, the short story collection *Disasters in the First World*, and the poetry collection *The 26-Hour Day*. Her fiction and poetry have appeared in *The Paris Review*, *The Atlantic*, and elsewhere. She is an Associate Professor of English and Director of Creative Writing at the University of Southern Mississippi.

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Outside Museum, West Tent

The Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents Louisiana Poets, Volume 2

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Lucie Frost

How the Hell Did I Not Know That?: My Midlife Year from Couch to Curiosity

Lucie Frost is a retired employment lawyer, now humor and satire writer. She has written for *Next Tribe*, *Slackjaw*, *the Belladonna*, *Points in Case*, and other publications. She lives in San Antonio, Texas, with her three delightful, needy dogs. You can find links to her social media and newsletter at her website, LucieFrost.com.

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

Bienville Building, Conference Center 118

Memoirs and Misadventures: Humorous Essays on Growing Up, Giving Up, and Getting Wiser

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



J. Bruce Fuller

Hurricanes Katrina & Rita at 20: An Anthology of Louisiana Poetry with Art

J. Bruce Fuller is the author of *How to Drown a Boy*. His chapbooks include *The Dissenter's Ground*, *Lancelot*, and *Flood*, and his poems have appeared at *The Southern Review*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *McNeese Review*, *Birmingham Poetry Review*, and *Best New Poets 2022*, among others. He has received scholarships from Bread Loaf, the Sewanee Writers' Conference, and Stanford University, where he was a Wallace Stegner Fellow. He is Director of TRP: The University Press of SHSU.

11:15 am to Noon

Outside Museum, West Tent

Hurricanes Katrina & Rita at 20: An Anthology of Louisiana Poetry with Art

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Cari Galeziewski

Mirabell and the Immortal Pirate Black Sam Bellamy

Cari Galeziewski is a children's author who lives with her family in the New Orleans area, even though she's really a Michigander at heart. Her love of history, travel, and adventure fuels her creativity and provides her with endless story ideas. She's also fascinated by time travel in all of its forms but prefers to keep her feet firmly planted on the ground. *Mirabell and the Immortal Pirate Black Sam Bellamy* is her debut novel.

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent D

Secrets, Swashbucklers, and Spooky School Nights: Middle Grade Mayhem
(ages 8 to 14)

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Wendy A. Gaudin

Sunset Limited: An Autobiography of Creole

Wendy A. Gaudin is a historian and writer whose interdisciplinary work centers southern-descended, mixed-heritage, and mixed-race populations and histories. As a mixed-heritage Louisiana Creole of Color whose elders migrated to California in the first half of the twentieth century, Gaudin is deeply moved, shaped, and inspired by her expansive community's story. She divides her time between New Orleans and Acadiana, and she teaches history at Xavier University of Louisiana.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, Third Floor

Whose South, Whose Story: What Hath Jim Crow Wrought?

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Celeste Gill

Chef Celeste's Louisiana Kitchen: Simplifying Cajun and Creole Cuisine

Celeste Gill is a chef, caterer, and the owner of 520 Spain, an event venue. As a decades-long mainstay in the Baton Rouge food scene, she has offered food demonstrations at the Red Stick Farmers' Market since its inception. She has been named Chef of the Year by the American Culinary Association and received the Seafood Award at the Baton Rouge Capital Chefs' Showcase.

12:30 pm to 1:15 pm

Cooking Demonstration Tent

Chef Celeste's Louisiana Kitchen: Simplifying Cajun and Creole Cuisine

1:30 pm to 2:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Britt Gondolfi

Look Up!: Fontaine the Pigeon Starts a Revolution

Britt Gondolfi is a Louisiana-based author, musician, mother, and environmental advocate. She works with Bioneers' Rights of Nature Initiative and partners with tribal nations to advance Indigenous-led environmental law. A 2023 graduate of Loyola Law, Gondolfi blends humor and activism in her debut children's book, *Look Up!*, which won a Moonbeam Children's Book Award and was named a Foreword Reviews Indies Pick List finalist.

11:45 am to 12:15 pm

Children's Author Tent 3

Look Up!: Fontaine the Pigeon Starts a Revolution
(ages 5 to 9)

12:30 pm to 1:15 pm

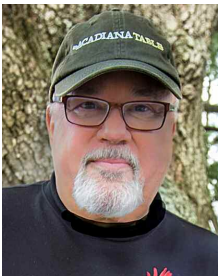
Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2:15 pm to 3:15 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent D

Everything but Typical: Influential Neurodivergent People Who Have Shaped the World
(all ages)



George Graham

Marsh Island Memories: A Novel

George Graham is a Louisiana-based writer, photographer, and author of the critically-acclaimed cookbooks *Acadiana Table* and *Fresh from Louisiana*. Known for capturing the soulful spirit of Cajun and Creole life, Graham brings his deep roots and storytelling flair to this fictional tale. He lives in Lafayette, Louisiana, with his family, his camera, and a well-seasoned cast iron pot.

9:00 am to 9:45 am

Bienville Building, Conference Center 173

Small Town Troubles: Memories, Mystery, and Meaning

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Shana Griffin

Seeing Black: Black Photography in New Orleans 1840 and Beyond

Shana Griffin is a Black feminist activist, independent researcher, applied sociologist, geographer, artist, abolitionist, and mother who lives within the Black geographies of New Orleans. She engages its feminist pedagogies—participating in research, organizing projects, and art practices that attend to the lived experiences of the Black Diaspora. Griffin is the founder of PUNCTUATE, a feminist initiative based in New Orleans, foregrounding the embodied aesthetics and practices of Black feminist thought and Integrating critical research methods with activism and socially engaged multimedia projects.

Noon to 12:45 pm

Bienville Building, Conference Center 173

Seeing Black: Black Photography in New Orleans 1840 and Beyond

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Merrill Guillory

Hurricanes Katrina & Rita at 20: An Anthology of Louisiana Poetry with Art

A native of Mallet, Louisiana, the stories of **Merrill Guillory's** parents and grandparents shaped his perspective of life that he expresses through his poems. His stories are told from the eyes of the heart and the experiences of living in a conflicted world of Creole and African American culture, a culture shaped and defined by the world of "Jim Crow," and the painful loss of those who walked through that world.

11:15 am to Noon

Outside Museum, West Tent

Hurricanes Katrina & Rita at 20: An Anthology of Louisiana Poetry with Art

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2025 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Sarah Guillory

Gus and Glory

Sarah Guillory is the author of the middle-grade novels *Gus and Glory*, which earned three starred reviews, *Nowhere Better Than Here*, which was named a *Kirkus Reviews* Best Book of the Year and earned four starred reviews, and the upcoming *A Wish with Wings*. She loves walking her dogs, sitting under a tree with a book, or running countless miles before the sun has even come up. Guillory lives in Louisiana with her husband and dogs.

11:45 am to 12:30 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent D

The Power of Friendship:

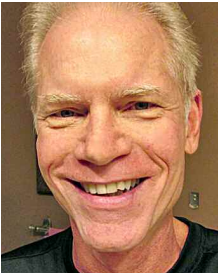
Contemporary Middle Grade Novels

(ages 8 to 12)

12:45 pm to 1:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Adam Gussow

My Family and I: A Mississippi Memoir

Adam Gussow is a professor of English and Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi and a blues harmonica player and teacher. He has published a number of books on the blues, including *Mister Satan's Apprentice: A Blues Memoir*, *Beyond the Crossroads: The Devil and the Blues Tradition*, and *Whose Blues? Facing Up to Race and the Future of the Music*. Gussow's longtime musical partnership with Sterling "Mr. Satan" Magee was the subject of an award-winning documentary, *Satan & Adam*, which screened on Netflix for two years.

11:15 am to Noon

Bienville Building, Conference Center 118

In the Shadow of the South:

Memoirs of Prejudice, Truth, and Hope

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Kimiko Hahn

The Ghost Forest: New and Selected Poems

New York State Poet Laureate **Kimiko Hahn** is the author of eleven books of poems, including: *The Ghost Forest: New and Selected Poems*; *Foreign Bodies*; *Brain Fever*, and *Toxic Flora*, all collections prompted by science; *The Narrow Road to the Interior*, a collection that takes its title from Basho's famous poetic journal; *The Unbearable Heart*, which received an American Book Award; and *Earshot*, which was awarded the Theodore Roethke Memorial Poetry Prize and an Association of Asian American Studies Literature Award.

Kimiko Hahn'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

Outside Museum, West Tent

From Borough to Bayou:

A Conversation Between the State Poet Laureates

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Madi Hannan

Scrim on the Run!

Scrim on the Run: Christmas Fun!

Author/Illustrator **Madi Hannan**, known as "Madicat" in her art career, is a high school science teacher by day and an avid creative by night. Her artistic journey has taken her from painting pet portraits to crafting door hangers and anything else she can put her doodles on. Born and raised in New Orleans, she draws inspiration from the swamp and city that have given so much to her, especially her love of crawfish and snowballs.

11:30 am to 12:15 pm

Children's Author Tent 1

The Dog Who Wouldn't Quit:

Scrim's Big City Tales of Escape and Rescue

(all ages)

12:30 pm to 1:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2:15 pm to 3:15 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent D

Everything but Typical: Influential Neurodivergent People

Who Have Shaped the World

(all ages)



Kendall Harrison

She Danced with a Redfish: A Play in Two Acts

Native New Orleanian **Kendall Harrison** has a decade of stage performance under his belt. Recent credits include W.E.B. DuBois (*Knock Me A Kiss*), Luke (*Amen Corner*), Citizen Barlow (*Gem of the Ocean*), and Christophe Glapion in Dillard University's Fall 2025 production of *Fever*. Although acting is this leading man's passion, he has experience in every facet of production. In addition to his creative pursuits, Harrison is a certified pharmacy technician and a senior Performance Theatre Major at Dillard University.

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

State Library, Fourth Floor

Scenes from She Danced with a Redfish

3:00 pm to 3:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Robert W. Hastings

The American Alligator: Abused, Protected, Restored

Robert W. Hastings, PhD, is a retired marine biologist and devoted conservationist. He served as a college professor for 30 years and was also director of the Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station on Lake Pontchartrain. His book, *The Lakes of Pontchartrain: Their History and Environments*, was published in 2009. He also served several years as director of the Alabama Natural Heritage Program.

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

The American Alligator: Abused, Protected, Restored

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Phebe A. Hayes

Were You There?: A Biography of Emma Wakefield-Paillet

Phebe A. Hayes is passionate about humanizing her people by providing evidence of their experiences and contributions to Iberia Parish and surrounding communities. Hayes is a professor and dean emerita at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. After retirement, she founded the Iberia African American Historical Society (IAAHS). Through IAAHS, she also organized the Iberia African American Historical Society Center for Research & Learning, an archive of primary documents, civil records, and pictures related to the true and inclusive history of the community.

9:45 am to 10:15 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent C

Were You There?: A Biography of Emma Wakefield-Paillet
(ages 12 and up)

10:30 am to 11:15 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Joshua Hebert

Moderator

Joshua Hebert is a father, husband, award-winning chef, lifelong musician, elected official, and leader in the hospitality and nonprofit spaces. He is founder and president of Assumption Foundation for the Arts and serves with many local organizations and nonprofits, including as Vice-Chair for Programs and Education for the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts, the LSU Ag Center Assumption Parish Healthy Communities Coalition, and the Assumption Parish Head Start and Ready Start Network Advisory Board. Hebert resides in his hometown of Napoleonville, Louisiana, with his wife and their three sons.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Cooking Demonstration Tent

Bébés, Beauty & Bees:
Making Fancy Look Easy

11:15 am to Noon

Cooking Demonstration Tent

Who's Your Mama, Are You
Catholic, and Can You Make
a Roux?

12:30 pm to 1:15 pm

Cooking Demonstration Tent

Chef Celeste's Louisiana
Kitchen: Simplifying Cajun
and Creole Cuisine

1:45 pm to 2:30 pm

Cooking Demonstration Tent

Crescent City Cocktail Hour:
Stirring Up History One
Cocktail at a Time



Thomas Helling, MD

Sickly Vapors: Disease and Doctoring in the Old South

Thomas Helling, MD, is professor of surgery at University of Mississippi Medical Center and School of Medicine and headed the Division of General Surgery from 2009 to 2023. He is author of *The Great War and the Birth of Modern Medicine*, *The Agony of Heroes: Medical Care for America's Besieged Legions from Bataan to Khe Sanh*, and *Desperate Surgery in the Pacific War: Doctors and Damage Control for American Wounded, 1941–1945*.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

Sickly Vapors: Disease and Doctoring in the Old South

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Christina Henry

The Place Where They Buried Your Heart

The Place Where They Buried Your Heart is bestselling horror and dark fantasy author **Christina Henry's** first hardcover release. Her previous titles include *The House That Horror Built*, *Good Girls Don't Die*, *Near the Bone*, *The Ghost Tree*, The Chronicles of Alice series, and the seven-book urban fantasy Black Wings series. Her short stories have appeared in *Elemental Forces*, *Cursed*, *Twice Cursed*, *Giving the Devil His Due*, and *Kicking It*. In her spare time, she enjoys running long distances, reading anything she can get her hands on, and watching movies with samurai, zombies, and/or subtitles.

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

The Architecture of Evil: Haunted Houses, Broken Hearts,
and Horror That Doesn't Hold Back

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2025 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Becca Hillburn

Lilliputian Living: Les Petits Plaisirs de la Vie

Becca Hillburn is a Louisiana comic artist and illustrator who specializes in creating enchanting miniature worlds through watercolor. Known for her acclaimed 7" Kara graphic novel series, she explores the daily lives and traditions of tiny people living in our forgotten spaces. With an MFA from Savannah College of Art and Design, Hillburn shares her passion through workshops and online tutorials. Her whimsical illustrations celebrate the simple pleasures found in the smallest corners of existence.

12:30 pm to 1:00 pm

Children's Author Tent 1

Lilliputian Living: Les Petits Plaisirs de la Vie
(ages 10 to 16)

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2:15 pm to 3:15 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent D

Everything but Typical: Influential Neurodivergent People Who Have Shaped the World
(all ages)



Tim Hollis

Vintage Louisiana Signs

Tim Hollis is the author of *Vintage Louisiana Signs* and has written 40 books on pop culture history, a number of them concerning southeastern tourism. He also operates his own museum of vintage toys, souvenirs, and other pop culture artifacts near Birmingham, Alabama.

9:00 am to 9:45 am

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

Vintage Louisiana Signs

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



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.

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

State Library, Fourth Floor

How Women Made Music: A Revolutionary History from NPR Music

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Outside Museum, South Tent

Stories Told and Untold: Sisters, Secrets, and Southern Reckoning



Samuel C. Hyde Jr.

Bayou Dilemma: Louisiana in Crisis and Change

Samuel C. Hyde Jr., PhD, is Leon Ford Endowed Chair, professor of history, and director of the Center for Southeast Louisiana Studies at Southeastern Louisiana University. He is author of multiple books, including the award-winning *Pistols and Politics: Feuds, Factions, and the Struggle for Order in Louisiana's Florida Parishes, 1810-1935*, and is screenwriter for five docudrama films including *American Crisis*, *American Shame: The National Consequence of Coastal Erosion*, recipient of a Gold Medal at the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival.

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Bayou Dilemma: Louisiana in Crisis and Change

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



K. Ibura

Tempest

K. Ibura grew up in a city full of music and culture, a neighborhood full of oak trees and mosquitoes, and a home full of art and activism. She has written two short story collections: *Ancient, Ancient*—Otherwise Award winner—and *When the World Wounds*, and a middle grade novel, *When the World Turned Upside Down*. Her new YA novel *Tempest* takes place in her hometown of New Orleans, Louisiana. Learn about *Tempest* at KlburaBooks.com.

11:15 am to 12:15 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent C

Beyond the Horizon: Where Magic, Sci-Fi, and Horror Meet in Young Adult Fiction
(ages 13 to 18)

12:30 pm to 1:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2:15 pm to 3:15 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent D

Everything but Typical: Influential Neurodivergent People Who Have Shaped the World
(all ages)

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Kristen Illarmo

Against the Red Sky

Kristen Illarmo is a New Orleans-based author of young adult science fiction and fantasy. Her action-packed, character-driven stories explore the ripple effects of real-world choices, set in decaying societies and with tangled family dynamics. Her debut duology kicks off with Earth vanishing into a black hole, and her latest, *Against the Red Sky*, is a sci-fi thriller with more explosions than kisses (but just barely). When she's not writing, you can find her wandering her neighborhood with her tiny giant-eared dog.

11:15 am to 12:15 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent C

Beyond the Horizon: Where Magic, Sci-Fi, and Horror Meet in Young Adult Fiction

(ages 13 to 18)

12:30 pm to 1:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Krystal "Gem" Jackson

She Danced with a Redfish: A Play in Two Acts

Krystal "Gem" Jackson is a Grammy-nominated vocalist, performing artist, and talent coach. Miss Jackson has performed in Italy, Mexico, across the Caribbean, and Carnegie Hall. She has done voice work for and with John Legend, Kevin Costner, Bill Gates, Flo-Rida, and John Musker. She holds an MFA in Performance from the California Institute of Arts and is currently a Miss America partner and professor of Theatre at Dillard University in New Orleans.

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

State Library, Fourth Floor

Scenes from She Danced with a Redfish

3:00 pm to 3:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Skye Jackson

Libre

Skye Jackson is an award-winning writer and editor from New Orleans, Louisiana, whose poetry has appeared in *The Southern Review*, *Rattle*, *Green Mountains Review*, and was hand selected by Billy Collins for inclusion in the Library of Congress project *Poetry 180*. In 2023, she was a finalist for the *Iowa Review* Poetry Award. She currently teaches at Xavier University.

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Outside Museum, West Tent

The Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents Louisiana Poets, Volume 2

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

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.

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Bienville Building, Conference Center 173

Donna's Bar & Grill New Orleans

Noon to 12:45 pm

State Library, Third Floor

Pinchback and Long: Populism, Progress, and Political Power

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative: A Vision for Twenty-First-Century Science



Hayley Johnson

Beneath Heavy Pines in World War II Louisiana: The Japanese American Internment Experience at Camp Livingston

Hayley Johnson is the Head of Open Scholarship and Government Publications at Louisiana State University. Johnson works with government documents in order to highlight their importance and relevance to both historical and present-day issues.

11:00 am to 11:45 am

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

Beneath Heavy Pines in World War II Louisiana

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2025 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Joy Jones

The Sky Is Not Blue

Joy Jones is a popular speaker and author of books for adults and children. They include *Fearless Public Speaking*, a how-to for teens, and *Jayla Jumps In*, a novel chosen as one of the best sports books for children by the American Library Association. Jones's latest is *A Marriage That Changed the World: Lois & Bill Wilson and the Addiction Recovery Movement*. Visit her online at JoyJonesOnline.com.

2:00 pm to 2:30 pm
Children's Author Tent 3
The Sky Is Not Blue
(ages 6 to 8)

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



Julie Kane

Naked Ladies: New and Selected Poems

Recipient of the 2025 Louisiana Writer Award, **Julie Kane's** six books of poetry include *Rhythm & Booze*, winner of the National Poetry Series; *Jazz Funeral*, winner of the Donald Justice Poetry Prize; and *Mothers of Ireland*, winner of the Poetry by the Sea Book Award. A past Fulbright Scholar and 2011-2013 Louisiana Poet Laureate, she is Professor Emerita of English at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches.

Noon to 12:45 pm
State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center
Louisiana Writer Award Ceremony

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm
State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room
A Conversation with Julie Kane

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



Xan Kaur

When Devils Sing

Xan Kaur is a Punjabi-American author who grew up in rural Georgia, where there were more gnats than people. Her debut novel is *When Devils Sing*, an instant *New York Times* and national Indie bestseller. When not writing, you can find her behind a camera or swimming in the nearest ocean.

11:15 am to 12:15 pm
A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent C
Beyond the Horizon: Where Magic, Sci-Fi, and Horror Meet in Young Adult Fiction
(ages 13 to 18)

12:30 pm to 1:15 pm
Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing



Sharon Keating

The Brandy Milk Punch

Sharon Keating is a lawyer by profession with a passion for the history and culture of New Orleans. Mother of two and grandmother of five, she lives in uptown New Orleans with her husband, a rescued yellow lab, and a resident ghost named Cornelia.

1:45 pm to 2:30 pm
Cooking Demonstration Tent
Crescent City Cocktail Hour: Stirring Up History One Cocktail at a Time

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



Rick Kelley

Musician

Since 2008, **Rick Kelley** has been an ambassador for the Louisiana Book Festival, performing concerts at elementary schools all over the state to promote reading and invite hundreds of kids to the festival. Inspired by the authors he's met through LBF, Kelley decided to adapt some of his original songs into children's picture books. His first effort was *Sharing Sharon* in 2015, followed by *I Read about It in a Book*, which not only promotes reading physical books but also his favorite people, librarians.

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Children's Author Tent 3
Don't Just Sit There...Read Something! Musical Fun for the Whole Family
(all ages)

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Chris Kennedy

Louisiana Tech's Dave Nitz: The Voice of the Bulldogs

Chris Kennedy is a historian who loves learning about his home state, Louisiana. A 2023 Louisiana State University graduate with a Master of Library and Information Science degree and a two-time Louisiana Tech alumnus, Kennedy is now a University Historian at Tech. When not working, he's likely running, hiking, hanging out with friends and family, or getting ready for fantasy football or March Madness.

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

**From the Quad to the Broadcast Booth:
Telling Louisiana's University Stories**

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Jenny Kiefer

Crafting for Sinners: A Novel

Jenny Kiefer is a Bram Stoker and Splatterpunk nominated horror author living in Louisville, Kentucky. Together with her mother, she owns and operates Butcher Cabin Books, an all-horror bookstore. Her books include *This Wretched Valley* and *Crafting for Sinners*.

10:45 am to 11:45 am

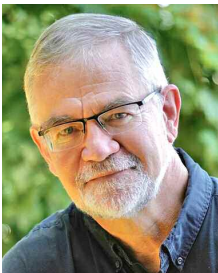
Outside Museum, South Tent

Grave Humor: Cults, Killers, and the Dark Sides of Community

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Gary Krist

Trespassers at the Golden Gate: A True Account of Love, Murder, and Madness in Gilded Age San Francisco

Gary Krist is the author of four previous narrative nonfiction books: *The White Cascade*, *City of Scoundrels*, *Empire of Sin*, and *The Mirage Factory*. He has also written three novels and two short story collections. A widely published journalist and book reviewer, Krist has received the Stephen Crane Award, the Sue Kaufman Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a Public Scholar grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and other awards.

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

**Trespassers at the Golden Gate: A True Account of Love,
Murder, and Madness in Gilded Age San Francisco**

3:00 pm to 3:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



C. M. Kushins

Cooler Than Cool: The Life and Work of Elmore Leonard

C. M. Kushins is the author of *Nothing's Bad Luck: The Lives of Warren Zevon* and *Beast: John Bonham and the Rise of Led Zeppelin*. He has been a freelance journalist for more than 15 years, and his work has appeared in *High Times* and *The Daily Beast*, among others.

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

Cooler Than Cool: The Life and Work of Elmore Leonard

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Jodi Laidlaw

Moderator

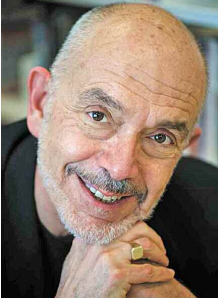
Jodi Laidlaw is a bookseller at Blue Cypress Books in New Orleans, Louisiana. With an undergraduate degree in English Literature and a decade of experience in corporate marketing, she serves Blue Cypress Books as manager where she leads efforts in Marketing, Events, and Operations. Laidlaw is an avid 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 recently recognized in *Gambit's* Best of New Orleans 2025.

10:00 am to 11:00 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Love Stories: From Meet-Cutes to Matrimony

2025 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Wally Lamb

The River is Waiting: A Novel

Wally Lamb is the author of seven *New York Times* bestselling novels: *The River Is Waiting*, *I'll Take You There*, *We Are Water*, *Wishin' and Hopin'*, *The Hour I First Believed*, *I Know This Much Is True*, and *She's Come Undone*. Lamb also edited *Couldn't Keep It to Myself* and *I'll Fly Away*, two volumes of essays from students in his writing workshop at York Correctional Institution, a women's prison in Connecticut, where he was a volunteer facilitator for 20 years.

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

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

The River is Waiting

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

3:00 pm to 3:45 pm

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Inside Words: What Our Incarcerated Students Taught Us



C. P. Landry

The Legend of Awful Art
The Watchmen

C. P. Landry is a lifelong resident of South Louisiana and a descendant of the original French Acadians. His wife of over 40 years shares a similar heritage as the fifth generation hunting and fishing the Atchafalaya River Basin. Together, they raised their five children to respect both their heritage and their land. His Cajun Kids Adventures series is loosely based on the experiences, challenges, and shenanigans of his children's unique upbringing.

12:30 pm to 1:15 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent C

Swamps, Secrets, and Scallywags: Middle Grade Louisiana Adventures

(ages 8 to 14)

1:30 pm to 2:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Yvette Landry

The Wild Girl of Catahoula

Yvette Landry grew up in Breaux Bridge, Louisiana, not far from the levees of the Atchafalaya Basin. State of Louisiana's 2013 and 2019 Music Ambassador, former Director of Louisiana Folk Roots Summer Cajun & Creole Music Kids Camp, and recently inducted into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame, Landry strives to bring cultures and traditions together through stories and songs. She is the award-winning author of *The Ghost Tree*, *L'Arbre Revenant*, *Madame Grand Doigt*, *Taking the World by Storm... A Conversation with the Godfather of Swamp Pop*, and *The Wild Girl of Catahoula*.

12:30 pm to 1:15 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent C

Swamps, Secrets, and Scallywags: Middle Grade Louisiana Adventures

(ages 8 to 14)

1:30 pm to 2:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



TaNiya Latiker

She Danced with a Redfish: A Play in Two Acts

TaNiya Latiker is a senior Performance Theatre Major at Dillard University (home of the oldest Black Theatre Program in the United States). Recent credits include Sister Moore in James Baldwin's *The Amen Corner* and originating the role of Lizette in the World Premiere of *Fever*. As a well-rounded theatre artist, she also works behind the scenes on costumes, props, and box office. Upon graduation, Latiker plans to pursue her MFA in Acting.

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

State Library, Fourth Floor

Scenes from She Danced with a Redfish

3:00 pm to 3:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Toby LeBlanc

Soaked: Stories

Toby LeBlanc lives in Austin, Texas, with his wife and children. He grew up in Scott, Louisiana, surrounded by both English and French. Some of his writing can be found in *Barrelhouse Magazine* and *Coffin Bell Journal*. He is a review contributor for *The Southern Review of Books*. His novel, *Dark Roux*, was published by Unsolicited Press in 2022. *Soaked*, his short story collection, was released this year from Cornerstone Press.

10:45 am to 11:45 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Southern Currents:

Short Stories of Place, People, and Possibility

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Rosey Lee

A Gardin Wedding: A Gardins of Edin Novel

Rosey Lee writes stories about complicated families and complex friendships, but a happy ending is guaranteed. She grew up on the Westbank of New Orleans, Louisiana, and currently lives in Atlanta, Georgia, about an hour away from the fictional town of Edin, Georgia, where her characters live. Lee was nominated for a 2025 Georgia Author of the Year Award for *The Gardins of Edin*, her debut novel.

10:00 am to 11:00 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Love Stories: From Meet-Cutes to Matrimony

11:15 am to Noon

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Kionna Walker LeMalle

Behind the Waterline: A Novel

Kionna Walker LeMalle crafts stories and poetry from the distinct culture and history of the American South. Her work has appeared in *table//FEAST*, *The Southern Quarterly*, *The First Line*, *The Bayou Review*, and *Devotion in the Open Air*, an anthology published by Inked in Gray. She earned her MFA at Houston Christian University, where she now teaches in the Department of Narrative Arts. Her debut novel, *Behind the Waterline*, won the Lee Smith Novel Prize, selected by contest judge Deesha Philyaw.

9:30 am to 10:30 am

Outside Museum, South Tent

Debut Novels: Stories of Love, Turmoil, and Belonging

10:45 am to 11:30 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Jennie Lightweis-Goff

Captive City: Meditations on Slavery in the Urban South

Jennie Lightweis-Goff is a scholar and lyric essayist. She spent her childhood in Brooklyn, New York, and Appalachia but split the difference by spending her adulthood in New Orleans, Louisiana. A recovering academic, she earned a PhD in English at the University of Rochester, and now writes about grief, love, addiction, and precarious labor on her Substack, *The Butcher's Darling*, and frequently publishes at *Liberties: A Journal of Culture and Politics*. Her scholarly books include *Blood at the Root* and *Captive City*, as well as her forthcoming memoir, *The Chef's Sabbath*.

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Outside Museum, North Tent

Passageways and Foodways: Slavery and Racism in the Formation of Southern Cities

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Vincent B. "Chip" LoCoco

The Devil's Jazz: The Haunted Chronicles of the Axman of New Orleans

Vincent B. "Chip" LoCoco is a New Orleans attorney and award-winning author whose novels celebrate music, Italian heritage, and faith. *Saving the Music* was optioned for film in 2025. His latest novel, *The Devil's Jazz*, set in New Orleans, weaves music and mystery into the haunting legend of the Axman. He received the Buddy D Media Award for contributions to the Sicilian-American community. He earned both his BA and law degree from Loyola University New Orleans.

9:30 am to 10:15 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

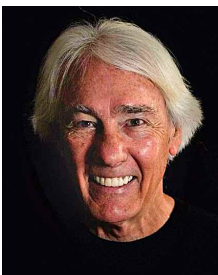
Speak of the Devil:

Where Music, Madness, and Murder Meet

10:30 am to 11:15 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Jack Woodville London

Dangerous Latitudes: A Novel

Jack Woodville London is the author of five novels and winner of the *Foreword Reviews* Literary Award. He speaks to literary, historical, and military groups and gave the keynote address at the 80th D-Day Memorial Service at the American Military Cemetery in Normandy, France. He is the Director Emeritus of Writing Education for the Military Writers Society of America. His nonfiction book, *A Novel Approach*, is the text adopted by the MWSA to introduce veterans to the basics of writing. He lives in Austin, Texas.

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Generational Dangers:

Outlaws, Spies, and Texans Across the Decades

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2025 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Alecia P. Long

Moderator

Alecia P. Long is the John L. Loos and Paul W. and Nancy Murrill Professor and Chair of the Department of History at Louisiana State University. She is author of *The Great Southern Babylon: Sex, Race, and Respectability in New Orleans, 1865-1920* (2004) and *Cruising for Conspirators: How a New Orleans DA Prosecuted the Kennedy Assassination as a Sex Crime* (2021). She is currently at work on a book about the 1952 murder of New Orleans socialite Diddie Cooper.

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Outside Museum, North Tent

Rainbow Fleur de Lis:

Essays on Queer New Orleans History



Meredith R. Lyons

A Dagger of Lightning

Meredith R. Lyons grew up in New Orleans, collecting two degrees from Louisiana State University before running away to Chicago, Illinois, where she acted and became a competitive martial artist before moving to Nashville, Tennessee. Her first novel, *Ghost Tamer*, is an Amazon Editor's Pick, an IBPA Benjamin Franklin Gold Winner: Best SciFi Fantasy, an IPPY Award Winner: Best First Book, and a Silver Falchion Winner: Best Book of 2023. *A Dagger of Lightning* released in April 2025.

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Hearts Ablaze: Where Romance Meets Fantasy

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Mary H. Manhein

A Call to Rowan: A Novella

Mary H. Manhein is the retired Director of the LSU FACES Laboratory. "The Bone Lady" has continued to write both fiction and nonfiction works. She also writes the Claire Carter, Bone Detective fictional children's series where Claire, a forensic anthropologist, and her 10-year-old niece, Penelope, assist law enforcement agencies across Louisiana in solving forensic cases.

9:00 am to 9:45 am

Bienville Building, Conference Center 173

Small Town Troubles: Memories, Mystery, and Meaning

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Michael S. Martin

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Michael S. Martin, history professor and department head for History, Geography, and Philosophy at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, researches, teaches, and writes about Louisiana history, public history, and the history of the U.S. South. Martin is a contributing faculty member of the Guilbeau Center for Public History, an affiliated faculty member of the Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Center for Public Policy, managing editor of *Louisiana History*, and a fellow of the Louisiana Historical Association.

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

From the Quad to the Broadcast Booth:

Telling Louisiana's University Stories

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Theresa McCulla

Insatiable City: Food and Race in New Orleans

Theresa McCulla is a curator and historian. Currently, she is Curator at Mars, Incorporated. Previously, she was the curator of beer history at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. Her writing has been awarded by the James Beard Foundation and the North American Guild of Beer Writers. *Insatiable City: Food and Race in New Orleans* was named a Best Book of 2024 by Smithsonian Magazine and nominated for a 2025 James Beard Book Award.

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Outside Museum, North Tent

**Passageways and Foodways: Slavery and Racism
in the Formation of Southern Cities**

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Bernice L. McFadden

Firstborn Girls: A Memoir

Bernice L. McFadden is an associate professor of Creative Writing at Tulane University and the author of several critically acclaimed novels, including *Sugar*, *The Warmest December*, *Loving Donovan*, *Nowhere Is a Place*, *Glorious*, *Gathering of Waters* (a *New York Times* Editors' Choice and one of the 100 Notable Books of 2012), *The Book of Harlan* (winner of a 2017 American Book Award and the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work, Fiction), and *Praise Song for the Butterflies* (long-listed for the 2019 Women's Prize for Fiction).

10:00 am to 11:00 am

Bienville Building, Conference Center 118

The Past Isn't Dead:

Memoirs at the Crossroads of Violence and Voice

11:15 am to Noon

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Diane C. McPhail

Follow the Stars Home: A Novel

Diane C. McPhail is an award-winning writer, artist, and minister. In addition to holding an MFA, an MA, and a DMin, she has studied at the University of Iowa (Distance and Online Education), Abroad Writers, and the Yale Writers' Workshop, among others. McPhail is a member of North Carolina Writers' Network and the Historical Novel Society. She lives in an old gristmill with her husband, Ray.

Noon to 1:00 pm

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

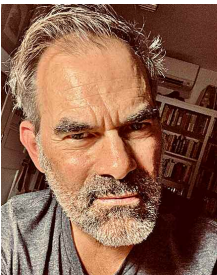
Fiction from Fact: Louisiana Novels of Survival,

Subterfuge, and the Human Spirit

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



James McWilliams

The Life and Poetry of Frank Stanford

James McWilliams is a former winner of the Hiett Prize in the Humanities. He has written on a wide range of topics both academically and journalistically, with work appearing in the *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Oxford American Review*, *New York Times Review*, *Harper's*, and elsewhere. He teaches history at Texas State University.

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

The Life and Poetry of Frank Stanford

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Patrice Melnick

Hurricanes Katrina & Rita at 20: An Anthology of Louisiana Poetry with Art

Patrice Melnick is the director of the Opelousas Museum. Her publications include a poetry chapbook, *The City of Hey Baby*, published by Finishing Line Press, and a memoir, *Po-boy Contraband: from Diagnosis Back to Life*, published by Catalyst Press. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and lives in Grand Coteau, Louisiana, with her loving and patient husband, Olan.

11:15 am to Noon

Outside Museum, West Tent

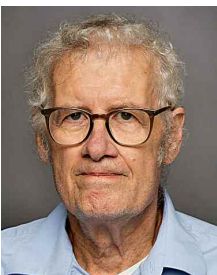
Hurricanes Katrina & Rita at 20:

An Anthology of Louisiana Poetry with Art

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



David Middleton

Time Will Tell: Collected Poems

David Middleton is Poet in Residence Emeritus at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana. Middleton's previous books of verse include *The Burning Fields*, *As Far As Light Remains*, *Beyond the Chandeliers*, *The Habitual Peacefulness of Gruchy: Poems After Pictures by Jean-François Millet*, *The Fiddler of Driskill Hill*, and *Outside the Gates of Eden*.

9:00 am to 10:00 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

The Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents Louisiana Poets, Volume 1

10:15 am to 11:00 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2025 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Maren Moore

Red Card

Maren Moore is a bestselling sports-romance author. She writes love stories that are equal parts heart and heat that always end in a happily ever after. She resides in southern Louisiana with her husband, two little boys, and their three mini dachshunds. When she isn't on a deadline, she's probably reading yet another romance book, rewatching her favorite cult classic horror movies, or daydreaming about the 90's.

10:00 am to 11:00 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Love Stories: From Meet-Cutes to Matrimony

11:15 am to Noon

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Jennifer Moorhead

Poison Wood

Jennifer Moorhead is the Amazon bestselling author of *Broken Bayou*. 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, two needy goldendoodles, and one un-needy shelter kitty. Her grown daughters are off creating their own stories. When she's not writing, she's playing mahjong or on a tennis court, laughing and providing job security for her coach.

10:30 am to 11:30 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

Old Sins Cast Long Shadows: Suspense Thrillers

11:45 am to 12:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Benjamin Morris

The Singing River: Poems

A native of Mississippi, Benjamin Morris is the author of one book of nonfiction and three books of poetry, most recently *The Singing River*. He holds an MSc in Creative Writing from the University of Edinburgh and a PhD in Archaeology from the University of Cambridge. His work has appeared in *Oxford American*, *Lithub*, and *The Southern Review*, and received fellowships from the Mississippi Arts Commission and Tulane University. He lives in New Orleans.

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Outside Museum, West Tent

The Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents Louisiana Poets, Volume 2

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Jennifer Anne Moses

You've Told Me Before: Stories

Jennifer Anne Moses is a writer and painter. In addition to her nine published books, she's published dozens of essays, articles, Op Ed pieces, and short stories, and her work has been anthologized in the *Pushcart Prizes* and *New Stories from the South: The Year's Best*. She and her husband raised their children in Baton Rouge. All three still say "y'all."

2:15 pm to 3:15 pm

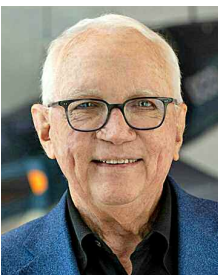
A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Between Confession and Concealment: Short Stories of the Modern Soul

3:30 pm to 4:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Gordon H. "Nick" Mueller

Preserving the Legacy: Creating the National World War II Museum

Gordon H. "Nick" Mueller is Founding President and CEO Emeritus of The National WWII Museum. He is the author of *"Everything We Have": 6.6.44* and, with Kali Martin Schick, *Building The National WWII Museum*.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

Preserving the Legacy: Creating the National World War II Museum

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Susan D. Mustafa

Blood Moon Over Bohemia

Susan D. Mustafa is a *New York Times* and *San Francisco Chronicle* bestselling author from Louisiana. She writes in multiple genres, including True Crime, Inspirational, and Historical Fiction. Her books have been translated and published in nine languages, and she has been prominently featured in several docuseries and numerous television programs that have aired on FX, A&E, Hulu, Discovery, Investigation Discovery, Discovery Canada, Lifetime, Oxygen, and National Geographic.

Noon to 1:00 pm

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

Fiction from Fact: Louisiana Novels of Survival, Subterfuge, and the Human Spirit

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Kelly Mustian

The River Knows Your Name: A Novel

Kelly Mustian is the *USA Today* bestselling author of *The Girls in the Stilt House* and *The River Knows Your Name*. She is the recipient of the Mississippi Library Association's 2023 Author Award for Fiction and *The Girls in the Stilt House* was shortlisted for the 2022 Crook's Corner Book Prize for best debut novel set in the American South. Her work has appeared in numerous literary journals and commercial magazines. Originally from Mississippi, she currently lives in North Carolina.

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Outside Museum, South Tent

Stories Told and Untold: Sisters, Secrets, and Southern Reckoning

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



GennaRose Nethercott

Poet

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



Jenn P. Nguyen

Just Another Meet Cute

Jenn P. Nguyen (*The Boyfriend Contract*, *Fake It Till You Break It*, *Just Another Meet Cute*) was raised in New Orleans, Louisiana (Go Saints!), where she lives with her husband/high school sweetheart and two wonderful/slightly crazy kids. Nguyen spent her school years reading through lunchtime and giving up recess to organize the school library, partially because the weather was always scorching, but mainly because she loved to be surrounded by books. Now she spends her days reading, dreaming up YA romances, and binge-watching addictive Korean dramas all in the name of 'research.'

1:30 pm to 2:15 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent C

Royals & Romance: Contemporary Young Adult Fiction
(ages 12 and up)

2:30 pm to 3:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Michelle (M.A.) Nicholson

Hurricanes Katrina & Rita at 20: An Anthology of Louisiana Poetry with Art

Michelle (M.A.) Nicholson is a poet, editor, educator, journalist, and arts-organizer with work featured in *Best New Poets 2022* and *Winter in America* (Again) anthologies, as well as *Trampoline Poetry*, *Peauxdunque Review*, *Diode Poetry Journal*, *New Orleans Review*, and elsewhere. An MFA graduate from UNO, where she served as Associate Poetry Editor for *Bayou Magazine*, Nicholson received the 2021 Andrea-Saunders Gereighty Academy of American Poets Award and was *Kenyon Review's* 2024 Peter Taylor Fellow. Her debut poetry collection, *Around the Gate*, was selected for Word Works' 2024 Hilary Tham Capital Collection.

11:15 am to Noon

Outside Museum, West Tent

Hurricanes Katrina & Rita at 20: An Anthology of Louisiana Poetry with Art

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2025 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Cason E. O'Banion

Fire Ants: Essays Around and About Texarkana

Cason E. O'Banion is an award-winning author of both fiction and creative nonfiction. His debut novel, *Chinese New Year*, was nominated for the 2023 Thurber Prize for American Humor, and his essays about his family, hometown, and favorite Mexican chain restaurants have been nominated for Pushcart Prizes and published around the world. He lives in Baton Rouge, where he teaches writing at LSU and is always on the hunt for well-priced three-row vehicles for his wife and four children.

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

Bienville Building, Conference Center 118

Memoirs and Misadventures: Humorous Essays on Growing Up, Giving Up, and Getting Wiser

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Karen O'Connell

Moderator

Karen O'Connell is the Arkansas Center for the Book Coordinator at the Arkansas State Library. She holds a Master of Science in Library Science from The Catholic University of America, a Master of Arts from Georgetown University, a post-graduate certificate in Preservation Management from Rutgers University, and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Maryland. O'Connell has worked in academic and special libraries and has extensive training in book history. Her particular interests relate to the history of book illustration and book bindings.

9:30 am to 10:30 am

Outside Museum, South Tent

Debut Novels: Stories of Love, Turmoil, and Belonging

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Generational Dangers:

Outlaws, Spies, and Texans Across the Decades



Phil Oakley

Runners

Phil Oakley is a novelist and award-winning veteran journalist with experience in the motion picture industry. He is a retired regional executive with The Walt Disney Company (ABC News), a former director of the Louisiana Film Commission, and a retired editor with the *Dallas Morning News*. He began work on his first novel in 1964 while a student at the University of Texas at Austin. He has written nine novels.

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Generational Dangers:

Outlaws, Spies, and Texans Across the Decades

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Owen Pataki

Smoke in the Cypress: A Napoleonic Officer in New Orleans

Owen Pataki graduated from Cornell University in 2010 with a degree in history. In 2011, he joined the Army and deployed to Afghanistan in 2014, serving with the 10th Mountain Division. Following his military service, he attended the MetFilm School in London. His novels, *Where the Light Falls* and *Searchers in Winter*, were published in 2017 and 2021, respectively. *Smoke in the Cypress* is his third novel. He lives in New York where he works as a screenwriter and filmmaker.

Noon to 1:00 pm

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

Fiction from Fact: Louisiana Novels of Survival, Subterfuge, and the Human Spirit

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Nicholas Patler

Pinchback: America's First Black Governor

Nicholas Patler is a historian and author of *Jim Crow and the Wilson Administration: Protesting Federal Segregation in the Early Twentieth Century*. He holds a master's degree from Harvard University Extension School and Bethany Theological Seminary.

Noon to 12:45 pm

State Library, Third Floor

Pinchback and Long:

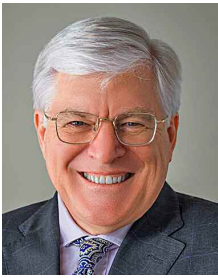
Populism, Progress, and Political Power

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Thomas E. Patterson

American Populist: Huey Long of Louisiana

After a partnership in a large law firm, **Thomas E. Patterson** founded the Patterson Law Firm in 2000. It represents businesses, professionals, and entrepreneurs in their business lawsuits. His publications include: *Handling the Business Emergency: Temporary Restraining Orders and Preliminary Injunctions*; "Mastering the Senate Maze: Mr. Long Goes to Washington." *The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association*, vol. 63, no. 3; and *American Populist: Huey Long of Louisiana*.

Noon to 12:45 pm

State Library, Third Floor

Pinchback and Long:

Populism, Progress, and Political Power

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Francis X. Pavy

Francis X Pavy: Forty Years Painting French Louisiana

Francis X. Pavy, born in Lafayette, Louisiana, on Mardi Gras Day in 1954, is a celebrated artist whose work reflects the rich cultural heritage of his native Acadiana. A lifelong Louisiana resident, Pavy began studying art at an early age, cultivating a unique formalism that combines vibrant colors, abstract imagery, and the rich tradition of Cajun storytelling. Dubbed the "Picasso of Zydeco" by *Rolling Stone*, his work spans a variety of mediums including painting, sculpture, photography, and printmaking.

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Bienville Building, Conference Center 173

Francis X Pavy: Forty Years Painting French Louisiana

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Alison Pelegrin

Poet

Alison Pelegrin is the recipient of fellowships and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Louisiana Board of Regents, the Foundation for Louisiana, and the Academy of American Poets, who awarded her a Poets Laureate Fellowship to support the Lifelines Poetry Project, which supports her work offering poetry workshops in Louisiana Prisons. Pelegrin's two most recent poetry collections are *Our Lady of Bewilderment* and *Waterlines*, both with LSU Press. Pelegrin is Writer-in-Residence at Southeastern Louisiana University and served as Louisiana Poet Laureate from 2023-2025.

10:15 am to 11:00 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

Poet Laureate to Poet Laureate

11:15 am to Noon

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

3:00 pm to 3:45 pm

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Inside Words: What Our Incarcerated Students Taught Us



Frank Perez

Rainbow Fleur de Lis: Essays on Queer New Orleans History

Frank Perez is a writer, teacher, tour guide, and public speaker who also serves as the executive director of the LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana. He has authored several books on New Orleans queer history and written hundreds of articles on the same topic. His publications also include a number of scholarly articles in academic journals as well as a number of poems and short stories in various literary journals.

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

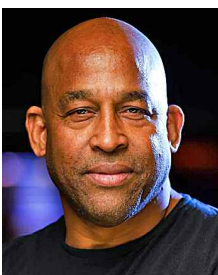
Outside Museum, North Tent

Rainbow Fleur de Lis: Essays on Queer New Orleans History

3:00 pm to 3:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Chuck Perkins

Beautiful and Ugly Too

Chuck Perkins is an Ex-Marine who was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. He's a product of the city's public school system and he's currently the owner of the performance venue Café Istanbul. He has just published his first book of poetry and essays called *Beautiful and Ugly Too*.

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Outside Museum, West Tent

The Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents Louisiana Poets, Volume 2

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2025 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



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

Bienville Building, Conference Center 118

Tender Battles: Fighting for Dignity in the Face of Decline and Bureaucracy

Noon to 12:45 pm

State Library, Fourth Floor

Charles Whitfield Richards: The Artist and His Circle



Karly Pierre
Soggy Like Cush Cush

Karly Pierre grew up in the heart of the Louisiana Creole/Cajun countryside surrounded by sugarcane fields. She comes from a family of farmers and educators who instilled in her a love of nature and adventure. Her background is in journalism, and she has worked as an educator in South Korea.

1:45 pm to 2:15 pm

Children's Author Tent 2

Soggy Like Cush Cush
(ages 3 to 6)

2:30 pm to 3:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Ellen Morris Prewitt
Moderator

Ellen Morris Prewitt is an award-winning author who has lived all over the American South. She was the Peter Taylor Fellow at *The Kenyon Review's* Summer Writing Program and currently serves as Writer-in-Residence at 100 Men Hall, an iconic Mississippi Blues site. Her short stories have twice been nominated for Pushcart Prizes; one received a Special Mention. Her first traditionally published novel, *When We Were Murderous Time-Traveling Women*, will be released by Literary Wanderlust in spring of 2026.

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Hearts Ablaze: Where Romance Meets Fantasy



Jasper Price
Pet Vet Visit
Interrobang!

Jasper Price is the author-illustrator of picture books *INTERROBANG*, *Pet Vet Visit*, *Zombie Asockalypse*, and *Double Bogey Goes Way, Way Off Course* and middle grade novels *Tree School for Squirrels: Branch Selection* and the Small World War series, including *The Incredible Shrinking Boy*, *The Incredible Saurian Adventure*, and *The Incredible JumpRoller Dragons*. When not visiting with readers, Price spends his days writing and doodling in his workshop in Shreveport, Louisiana. Learn more at JasperPriceBooks.com.

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

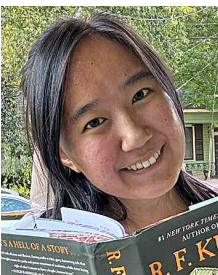
Children's Author Tent 1

Jasper Price's Whimsical World
(ages 5 to 11)

3:15 pm to 4:00 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.

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

Bienville Building, Conference Center 118

Remembering, Reimagining, Becoming: Vietnamese Identity 50 Years After the War

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

Fiction After the End: Building, Surviving, and Seeing the World Anew

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



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.

10:45 am to 11:45 am

Outside Museum, South Tent

Grave Humor: Cults, Killers, and the Dark Sides of Community



Brittany Ramey

Moderator

Brittany Ramey received a bachelor's degree from Troy University in 2008, where she majored in English. She then received a juris doctorate from the University of Alabama School of Law in 2008. She resides near Birmingham, Alabama, and practices law in a variety of subject matters.

10:30 am to 11:30 am

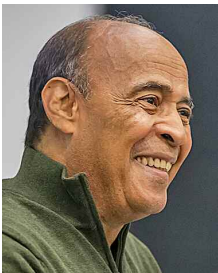
State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

Old Sins Cast Long Shadows: Suspense Thrillers

11:45 am to 12:45 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

The Fictional Façade: Thrillers About Hidden Lives, Obsession, and Family Secrets



Adolph L. Reed Jr.

The South: Jim Crow and Its Afterlives

Adolph Reed Jr. is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania and Distinguished Visiting Professor of Politics at Mount Holyoke College. His most recent books are *No Politics but Class Politics*, co-authored with Walter Benn Michaels, and *Black Studies, Cultural Politics and the Evasion of Inequality*, co-authored with Kenneth W. Warren. He is a regular on the Class Matters podcast - classmatterspodcast.org.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, Third Floor

Whose South, Whose Story: What Hath Jim Crow Wrought?

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Lauren Rhoades

Split the Baby: A Memoir in Pieces

Lauren Rhoades is a writer and editor living in Jackson, Mississippi. Originally from Colorado, Rhoades has served with AmeriCorps, started Mississippi's first fermentation company, and helmed the Eudora Welty House & Garden. She is now director of grants at the Mississippi Arts Commission and a host of Mississippi Public Broadcasting's *The Mississippi Arts Hour*. In 2022, Rhoades founded *Rooted Magazine*, a bestselling Substack publication dedicated to telling unfiltered stories about what it means to call Mississippi home. She holds an MFA in creative nonfiction from the Mississippi University for Women.

10:00 am to 11:00 am

Bienville Building, Conference Center 118

The Past Isn't Dead: Memoirs at the Crossroads of Violence and Voice

11:15 am to Noon

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Ricky Riccardi

Stomp Off, Let's Go: The Early Years of Louis Armstrong

Ricky Riccardi is the Director of Research Collections for the Louis Armstrong House Museum and author of three acclaimed biographies of the trumpeter, the most recent being *Stomp Off, Let's Go: The Early Years of Louis Armstrong*. He has won two GRAMMY Awards for "Best Album Notes," has lectured around the world, and teaches Armstrong courses at Queens College and Jazz at Lincoln Center.

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

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Stomp Off, Let's Go: The Early Years of Louis Armstrong

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2025 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Brad Richard

Turned Earth: Poems
Motion Studies: Second Edition with New Poems and Commentary
Hurricanes Katrina & Rita at 20: An Anthology of Poetry with Art

Brad Richard is the author of *Habitations*, *Butcher's Sugar*, and *Parasite Kingdom*. His 2022 chapbook, *In Place*, was chosen for the Robin Becker Series from Seven Kitchens Press. He has taught creative writing at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, The Willow School (whose creative writing program he founded and directed), Louisiana State University, Tulane University, and for the *Kenyon Review* summer workshops. The series editor of the Hilary Tham Capital Collection from The Word Works, he lives, writes, and gardens in New Orleans, Louisiana.

9:00 am to 10:00 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

The Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents Louisiana Poets, Volume 1

10:15 am to 11:00 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

11:15 am to Noon

Outside Museum, West Tent

**Hurricanes Katrina & Rita at 20:
An Anthology of Louisiana Poetry with Art**

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Gary Richards

Presenter/Moderator

Gary Richards is Professor of English and Chair of the Department of English, Linguistics, and Communication 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*.

Gary Richards appearance made possible in part by a Strategic Partnership Grant from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

9:00 am to 9:45 am

Outside Museum, North Tent

One Book, One Festival: A Trio of Kate Chopin Stories

Noon to 12:45 pm

Outside Museum, North Tent

**The Einstein of Sex:
Dr. Magnus Hirschfield, Visionary of Weimar Berlin**



Regine Richter-McClain

Moderator

Regine Richter-McClain is a former German Public Radio reporter and editor who has lived and worked in the United States for 34 years. She has worked on behalf of the Louisiana Book Festival, conducting author interviews and writing articles aimed at the festival's fans. She now lives in New Orleans, Louisiana, and works for the Louisiana State Museum system and as a tour guide.

11:15 am to Noon

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

**Struck Down, Not Destroyed:
Keeping the Faith as a Vatican Reporter**



Farrah Rochon

Pugs & Kisses

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.

10:00 am to 11:00 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Love Stories: From Meet-Cutes to Matrimony

11:15 am to Noon

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Denise M. Rogers

The Word for When: Poems

Denise M. Rogers received her MFA from the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville. Before entering graduate school, she taught kindergarten and later worked as a legal secretary in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1996, she joined the faculty of the University of Louisiana and taught writing, literature, and humanities courses for 28 years, retiring in December 2023. Her passion in retirement is quilting.

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Outside Museum, West Tent

**The Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents Louisiana Poets,
Volume 2**

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Amanda Romanick

Moon Cat

Look Up!: Fontaine the Pigeon Starts a Revolution

Amanda Romanick is a Louisiana-based artist and award-winning illustrator with a passion for visual storytelling. Her work focuses on stories that foster connection—like her recent guided meditation book, created in collaboration with author Casi Cole, and her debut, *Look Up! Fontaine the Pigeon Starts a Revolution*, created with author Britt Gondolfi, which won a Silver Moonbeam Award for Best Illustrator. Romanick crafts each work with care, believing everyone deserves good art.

11:45 am to 12:15 pm

Children's Author Tent 3

Look Up!: Fontaine the Pigeon Starts a Revolution

(ages 5 to 9)

12:30 pm to 1:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

1:15 pm to 1:45 pm

Children's Author Tent 3

Moon Cat

(ages 6 to 9)

2:00 pm to 2:45 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.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Outside Museum, North Tent

American Scare: Florida's Hidden Cold War on Black and Queer Lives

11:15 am to Noon

Bienville Building, Conference Center 118

In the Shadow of the South: Memoirs of Prejudice, Truth, and Hope

2:15 pm to 3:15 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Between Confession and Concealment: Short Stories of the Modern Soul



Amy Rossi

The Cover Girl: A Novel

Amy Rossi holds an MFA in creative writing from Louisiana State University. She lives in North Carolina by way of Massachusetts. Her writing has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize, Best Small Fictions, and Best of the Net. *The Cover Girl* is her debut novel.

11:45 am to 12:45 pm

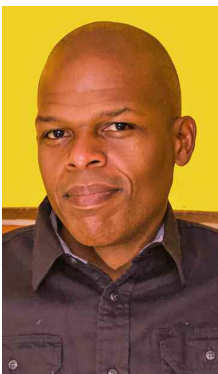
State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

The Fictional Façade: Thrillers About Hidden Lives, Obsession, and Family Secrets

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Maurice Carlos Ruffin

Moderator

2023 Louisiana Writer Award recipient **Maurice Carlos Ruffin** is the author of *The American Daughters*, named an *Electric Lit* and *Kirkus Reviews* Best Book of the Year, *The Ones Who Don't Say They Love You*, which was longlisted for the Story Prize and was a finalist for the Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence, and *We Cast a Shadow*, which was a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award, the PEN Open Book Award, and the Dayton Literary Peace Prize. Ruffin is a professor of Creative Writing at Louisiana State University.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, Third Floor

Whose South, Whose Story: What Hath Jim Crow Wrought?

11:00 am to 11:45 am

State Library, Third Floor

"Dr. Werthless": He Studied Murder and Nearly Killed the Comics Industry

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

What My Father and I Don't Talk About: Sixteen Writers Break the Silence

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Outside Museum, South Tent

Unquiet Communities: Myth, Murder, and the Search for Justice

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2025 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Ed Ruzicka

In the Wind: Poems

Ed Ruzicka has published three full-length books of poetry, most recently *Squalls*. His poems have appeared in the *Atlanta Review*, the *Chicago Literary Review*, *Rattle*, *Canary*, and many other literary publications. He has had poems nominated for the Pushcart Prize and has been a finalist for the Dana Award and the New Millennium Award. Ruzicka is also president of the Poetry Society of Louisiana. He lives quietly as a retired occupational therapist under the green of live oaks in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with his warm and caring wife, Renee.

9:00 am to 10:00 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

The Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents Louisiana Poets, Volume 1

10:15 am to 11:00 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Mona Lisa Saloy

Hurricanes Katrina & Rita at 20: An Anthology of Poetry with Art

Former Louisiana Poet Laureate **Mona Lisa Saloy, PhD**, is an author, folklorist, Louisiana Folklife Commissioner, educator, and scholar of Creole culture and Black New Orleans before and after Katrina. She is currently Conrad N. Hilton Endowed Professor of English at Dillard University. Her books include *Red Beans & Ricely Yours* (has a banned poem "The N Word" and won the T.S. Eliot Prize and the PEN/Oakland Josephine Miles Award); *Second Line Home*; and *Black Creole Chronicles: Poems* (One Book One New Orleans 2024 selection). Saloy was named Louisianian of the Year in Literature: 2024 in *Louisiana Life Magazine*.

11:15 am to Noon

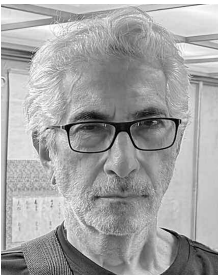
Outside Museum, West Tent

Hurricanes Katrina & Rita at 20: An Anthology of Louisiana Poetry with Art

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Harold Schechter

"Dr. Werthless": He Studied Murder...and Nearly Killed the Comics Industry

Harold Schechter is Professor Emeritus at Queens College, the City University of New York. Among his more than 40 published books are a series of historical true-crime narratives about America's most infamous serial killers, several encyclopedic works, and an anthology of American true crime writing published by the Library of America. He is a two-time Edgar Award nominee.

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

11:00 am to 11:45 am

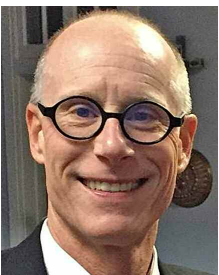
State Library, Third Floor

"Dr. Werthless": He Studied Murder...and Nearly Killed the Comics Industry

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Paul Schexnayder

The Gumbo Gators and the Swamp Circus

Paul Schexnayder has been a professional (color-blind) artist for more than 30 years. He graduated with a BFA in Painting and Drawing from LSU in 1988. Schexnayder is also an award-winning children's author/illustrator. He has had three picture books published with University of Louisiana Press and four by Pelican Publishing. Schexnayder and his wife, Lee, live in New Iberia, Louisiana, and have three kids.

1:00 pm to 1:30 pm

Children's Author Tent 2

The Gumbo Gators and the Swamp Circus
(ages 5 to 8)

1:45 pm to 2:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



David Michael Schneider

Crime in Colonial New Orleans: Terror on the Frontier

David Michael Schneider is a high school educator in New Orleans, Louisiana. He received his bachelor's degree in philosophy and religious studies from Louisiana State University with a minor in political science. He practices historic forms of European swordplay with the Crescent City Historical Fencing Club and continues to work within New Orleans to discover important histories.

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

State Library, Third Floor

Exceptional City, Dangerous Frontier: Unpacking New Orleans History

3:00 pm to 3:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Eric Seiferth

Captive State: Louisiana and the Making of Mass Incarceration

Eric Seiferth is curator and historian at the Historic New Orleans Collection. He is the project lead on the *NOLA Resistance* initiative to preserve and share stories of the New Orleans Civil Rights Movement and the associated exhibition, *The Trail They Blazed*. He was also lead curator of the award-winning exhibition *Captive State: Louisiana and the Making of Mass Incarceration*. He earned his BA and MA in American History from Tulane University.

11:00 am to 11:45 am

State Library, Fourth Floor

Captive State:

Louisiana and the Making of Mass Incarceration

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Katy Morlas Shannon

Invisible Blackness: A Louisiana Family in the Age of Racial Passing

Katy Morlas Shannon is the author of *Antoine of Oak Alley: The Unlikely Origin of Southern Pecans and the Enslaved Gardener Who Cultivated Them*, which won the 2022 Phillis Wheatley Book Award for best biography. She was instrumental in the early stages of research for Whitney Plantation, created a searchable online database of more than 400 enslaved individuals at Evergreen Plantation, and co-curated an exhibit about the enslaved community at Laura Plantation. Shannon lives in Mandeville, Louisiana, with her husband and three children.

Noon to 12:45 pm

Outside Museum, South Tent

The Creole Gumbo of Identity:

Lineage, Passing, and the Ingredients of Race

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Justin Shapiro

The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative: A Vision for Twenty-First-Century Science

Justin Shapiro is a historian of technology, science, and the environment. His interests include urban environmental history, climate history, and the history of science. He has published articles on uranium mining on the Navajo Nation and infrastructure and inequality in Washington, D.C. Currently, he is finishing a book on the environmental legacy of public housing. Shapiro teaches at Duke University. He received his PhD from the University of Maryland in 2020.

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative:

A Vision for Twenty-First-Century Science

3:00 pm to 3:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Marguerite Sheffer

The Man in the Banana Trees: Stories

Marguerite (Maggie) Sheffer's stories appear in *The Cincinnati Review*, *BOMB*, *LitHub*, *Asimov's Science Fiction*, and *Smokelong Quarterly*, among other magazines. At Tulane University, she teaches courses in design thinking and speculative fiction as tools for social change. She is a founding member of Third Lantern Lit, a New Orleans writing collective.

10:45 am to 11:45 am

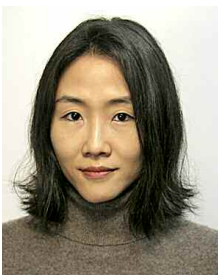
A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Southern Currents: Short Stories of Place, People, and Possibility

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Ery Shin

Spring on the Peninsula: A Novel

Ery Shin was born in Ames, Iowa, and raised in Manhattan, New York, for the first decade of her life, then Seoul, Korea, for the second. The author of *Gertrude Stein's Surrealist Years*, a study of Stein's later experimental gestures and their philosophical implications within Hitler's Europe, she is currently an associate professor of English at the University of Southern Mississippi. *Spring on the Peninsula* is her debut novel.

9:30 am to 10:30 am

Outside Museum, South Tent

Debut Novels: Stories of Love, Turmoil, and Belonging

10:45 am to 11:30 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2025 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Stacey Simmons

The Queen's Path: A Revolutionary Guide to Women's Empowerment and Sovereignty

Louisiana native **Stacey Simmons, MA, PhD, LMFT** is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Certified Psychedelic Therapist. She is a clinical supervisor at Hope Therapy Center in Burbank, California. Her practice focuses on creative professionals, where she works primarily with writers, directors, actors, and musicians. Her research focuses on creativity, archetypes, psychedelic psychotherapy, neuroscience, and consciousness research. She is a volunteer researcher with the Semel Institute of Neuroscience at UCLA, as well as a researcher with the Trance Science Research Institute in Paris, France.

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Outside Museum, North Tent

The Queen's Path: A Revolutionary Guide to Women's Empowerment and Sovereignty

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Sarah Simms

Beneath Heavy Pines in World War II Louisiana: The Japanese American Internment Experience at Camp Livingston

Sarah Simms is the Undergraduate and Student Success Librarian at Louisiana State University. In this role, she liaises to various support services across campus and provides information literacy instruction to help ensure the academic success of students in their first and second year of college.

11:00 am to 11:45 am

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

Beneath Heavy Pines in World War II Louisiana

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Margaret Simon

Were You There?: A Biography of Emma Wakefield Paillet

Margaret Simon lives on Bayou Teche in New Iberia, Louisiana. Simon 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.

9:45 am to 10:15 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent C

Were You There?: A Biography of Emma Wakefield-Paillet
(ages 12 and up)

10:30 am to 11:15 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Donna Poniatowski Sims

Donna's Bar & Grill New Orleans

Dr. Donna Poniatowski Sims, educator (K-12 and university), and husband, Chef Charlie Sims, owned the New Orleans music club Donna's Bar and Grill, located at 800 N. Rampart, from 1993-2010 (noted for featuring brass bands and jazz). Donna is a published photographer and has written numerous curricula for educational purposes. Charlie was the chef for Donna's Bar and Grill and Head Chef for Amtrak's *City of New Orleans*.

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Bienville Building, Conference Center 173

Donna's Bar & Grill New Orleans

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



John Warner Smith

Sisters of Gavinville
Hurricanes Katrina & Rita at 20: An Anthology of Poems with Art

Former Louisiana Poet Laureate **John Warner Smith** has published five collections of poetry, most recently *Our Shut Eyes*. A sixth collection, *From the Flinty Rock: New and Selected Poems*, is forthcoming. In 2022, Smith published his first novella, *For All Those Men*. His memoir *I, Too, Am Tar Baby*, was published in 2025. His second novella, *Murders on Red Hill*, will be published in 2026. A Cave Canem Fellow, Smith is a 2020 Poet Laureate Fellow of the Academy of American Poets and is winner of the 2019 Linda Hodge Bromberg Literary Award.

11:15 am to Noon

Outside Museum, West Tent

Hurricanes Katrina & Rita at 20: An Anthology of Louisiana Poetry with Art

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Outside Museum, South Tent

Stories Told and Untold: Sisters, Secrets, and Southern Reckoning

3:15 pm to 4:00 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.

11:00 am to 11:45 am

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

Beneath Heavy Pines in World War II Louisiana

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

The American Alligator: Abused, Protected, Restored



Tod Smith

Seeing Black: Black Photography in New Orleans 1840 and Beyond

Photographer **Tod Smith** specializes in documenting the people, music, and culture of the U.S. South. His primary inspiration comes from his love of New Orleans, Louisiana, the city of his birth, and its unique culture and music. Smith's work has been published in *Popular Photography Magazine*, *New Orleans by New Orleans*, *Shots Magazine*, *Okra Magazine*, *Black & White Magazine*, and *Seeing Black: Black Photography in New Orleans, 1840 & Beyond*. His work is currently included in the permanent collection of the New Orleans African American Museum.

Noon to 12:45 pm

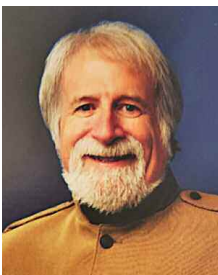
Bienville Building, Conference Center 173

Seeing Black: Black Photography in New Orleans 1840 and Beyond

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Bruce Spizer

Beatles for Sale to Help!

Bruce Spizer is a first-generation Beatles fan and native of New Orleans, Louisiana. A "taxman" by day, Spizer is a board-certified tax attorney and certified public accountant. A "paperback writer" by night, he is the author of several critically acclaimed books about the Beatles and has served as a consultant on several Beatles projects for Capitol Records, EMI, Universal Music Group and Apple Corps, Ltd. His articles on the Beatles are featured regularly in magazines such as *Beatlefan* and *Goldmine*.

Noon to 12:45 pm

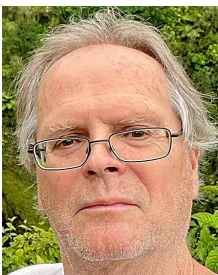
Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

Beatles for Sale to Help!

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



David Starkey

The Fairley Brothers in Japan

David Starkey's first novel, *Poor Ghost*, was published by Turner/Keylight in 2024. He is a former Santa Barbara poet laureate and emeritus professor at Santa Barbara City College, where he was founding director of the creative writing program. A graduate of LSU's MFA program and a regular contributor to *The Southern Review*, he is the author of *Creative Writing: Four Genres in Brief*, which for many years has been the bestselling textbook for introductory college creative writing classes.

9:30 am to 10:30 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Hit the Road: Modern Literary Odysseys

10:45 am to 11:30 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Zachary G. Stein

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Zachary G. Stein is the Assistant Dean of Technical Services at Edith Garland Dupré Library, University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He initially served as the library's Head of Special Collections from March 2018 to June 2023. He holds a Master of Science in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

From the Quad to the Broadcast Booth: Telling Louisiana's University Stories

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2025 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Sue Strachan

The Obituary Cocktail

Sue Strachan is the author of *The Café Brûlot* and *The Obituary Cocktail*, part of the LSU Press Iconic New Orleans Cocktails series. She is a social historian and journalist who has written about New Orleans culture, food, history, and current events for *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, *New Orleans Magazine*, *St. Charles Avenue*, *Benzinga*, *HG*, and *TIME Asia*, among other publications. She contributed an essay about New Orleans women and philanthropy for *Cherchez la Femme* by Cheryl Gerber. Learn more about her at SueStrachan.com

1:45 pm to 2:30 pm

Cooking Demonstration Tent

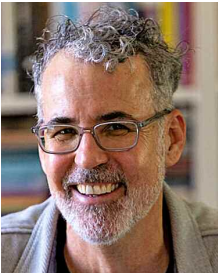
Crescent City Cocktail Hour:

Stirring Up History One Cocktail at a Time

2:45 pm to 3:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Matthew Sullivan

Midnight in Soap Lake: A Novel

Matthew Sullivan's novel, *Midnight at the Bright Ideas Bookstore*, was an IndieNext pick, a Barnes & Noble Discover pick, a GoodReads Choice Awards Finalist, and winner of the Colorado Book Award. His new stand-alone novel, *Midnight in Soap Lake*, is published by Hanover Square Press/Harper Collins. He lives and writes in Anacortes, Washington.

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Outside Museum, South Tent

Unquiet Communities:

Myth, Murder, and the Search for Justice

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Christi Keating Sumich

The Brandy Milk Punch

Christi Keating Sumich holds a doctoral degree in history and a master's degree in English literature. She resides just outside of New Orleans with her husband and has three grown children, a daughter-in-law, and too many pets.

1:45 pm to 2:30 pm

Cooking Demonstration Tent

Crescent City Cocktail Hour:

Stirring Up History One Cocktail at a Time

2:45 pm to 3:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Sheila Sundar

Habitations

Sheila Sundar is a professor of English and creative writing at the University of Mississippi. She earned her MFA at Boston University. She lives in New Orleans with her husband and their three children. *Habitations* is her debut novel.

9:30 am to 10:30 am

Outside Museum, South Tent

Debut Novels: *Stories of Love, Turmoil, and Belonging*

10:45 am to 11:30 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Raj Tawney

All Mixed Up

Colorful Palate: A Flavorful Journey Through a Mixed American Experience

Raj Tawney is the author of the memoir *Colorful Palate: A Flavorful Journey Through a Mixed American Experience* and the middle grade novel *All Mixed Up*. His writing largely reflects his multiracial American upbringing. Born to an Indian, Puerto Rican, and Italian American family, Tawney continues to explore his identity and family history through personal essays published in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, and other outlets throughout the country.

11:45 am to 12:30 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent D

The Power of Friendship:

Contemporary Middle Grade Novels

(ages 8 to 12)

12:45 pm to 1:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Bienville Building, Conference Center 118

Delicious Heritage: Memoirs of Mixed Identity, Mangoes, and Meatballs

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Gwen Thompkins

How Women Made Music: A Revolutionary History from NPR Music (contributor)

A New Orleans native, **Gwen Thompkins** is a journalist and writer whose stories have been featured by NPR's news magazines, NPR Music, *Oxford American*, the Library of Congress Recording Registry, *The Massachusetts Review*, and *The New Yorker*. Thompkins was the longtime senior editor of NPR's *Weekend Edition with Scott Simon* and later NPR's East Africa bureau chief. Following a fellowship at the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University, she returned to New Orleans as the executive producer and host of *Music Inside Out*. Currently, she is a PhD candidate in history at Tulane University and writing a book based on the *Music Inside Out* interviews. For a full archive of the program, go to: MusicInsideOut.org.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Stomp Off, Let's Go: The Early Years of Louis Armstrong

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

State Library, Fourth Floor

How Women Made Music:

A Revolutionary History from NPR Music

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Annabelle Tometich

The Mango Tree: A Memoir of Fruit, Florida, and Felony

Annabelle Tometich went from medical school reject to line cook to journalist to author. Her first book, *The Mango Tree*, was called "sweet, sharp" by *The New York Times* and was named among the best books of 2024 by *The Washington Post* and NPR. In February, she became the first Asian American author to win the Southern Book Prize for nonfiction.

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Bienville Building, Conference Center 118

Delicious Heritage:

Memoirs of Mixed Identity, Mangoes, and Meatballs

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Trang Thanh Tran

They Bloom at Night

Trang Thanh Tran writes speculative stories with big emotions. They grew up in a big family in Philadelphia, then abandoned degrees in sociology and public health to tell stories in Georgia. When not writing, they can be found over-cafeinating on iced coffee and watching zombie movies. Their debut novel, *She Is a Haunting*, was an instant *New York Times* and Indie bestseller, a William C. Morris Debut Award finalist, and a Bram Stoker Award winner. Visit them online at TrangThanhTran.com.

11:15 am to 12:15 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent C

Beyond the Horizon: Where Magic, Sci-Fi, and Horror Meet in Young Adult Fiction

(ages 13 to 18)

12:30 pm to 1:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Chris Tusa

Moderator

Chris Tusa was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. He has published two novels, *Dirty Little Angels* (2009) and *In the City of Falling Stars* (2016). His latest novel, *More Devils Than Hell Can Hold*, is currently agented. His work has appeared in *Prairie Schooner*, *New South*, *Connecticut Review*, *Five Points*, *Texas Review*, *The Southeast Review*, *storySouth*, *New Delta Review*, *South Dakota Review*, and many others. Tusa is the former Writer-in-Residence at Southeastern Louisiana University.

9:30 am to 10:30 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Hit the Road: Modern Literary Odysseys

10:45 am to 11:45 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Southern Currents:

Short Stories of Place, People, and Possibility



Jason Van

Moderator

Jason Van is the Leadership Programs Manager at The National WWII Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana. Prior to joining the leadership team, Van served as Project Manager for the Museum's President & CEO Emeritus, coordinating major speaking engagements and overseeing publications such as *Building the National WWII Museum* and *Preserving the Legacy*. Before his museum career, Van taught middle school history, held teaching positions at Tulane University and the University of New Orleans, earned his MA in History from UNO, and is currently completing his PhD there.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

Preserving the Legacy:

Creating the National World War II Museum

2025 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Adrian Van Young

Moderator

Adrian Van Young is the author of four books of fiction—most recently, *Midnight Self*, and the forthcoming *Rough Beast*. His fiction, nonfiction, criticism have been published in *Conjunctions*, *Guernica*, *BOMB*, *Granta*, *McSweeney's*, and *The New Yorker* online, among others. He lives in New Orleans, Louisiana, with his family where he is a professional freelance editor and teaches in UNO's MFA Program. Learn more about him at AdrianVanYoung.com.

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

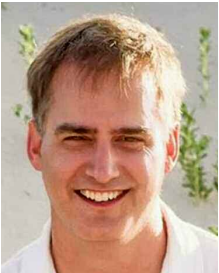
State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

The Architecture of Evil: Haunted Houses, Broken Hearts, and Horror That Doesn't Hold Back

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Alex Vernon

Peace is a Shy Thing: The Life and Art of Tim O'Brien

Alex Vernon graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point (the only literature major in his class of over a thousand), served in combat as a tank platoon leader in the Persian Gulf War, and earned a PhD from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. The recipient of an Army Historical Foundation Distinguished Writing Award and a National Endowment of the Humanities Fellowship, he is the M.E. & Ima Graves Peace Distinguished Professor of English at Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas.

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

Peace is a Shy Thing: The Life and Art of Tim O'Brien

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



James Wade

Narrow the Road: A Novel

James Wade is the youngest novelist to win two Spur Awards from the Western Writers of America, and a recipient of the MPIBA's prestigious Reading the West Award. His work has appeared in *Texas Highways*, *Writers' Digest*, and numerous additional publications. Wade lives and writes in the Texas Hill Country with his wife and children.

9:30 am to 10:30 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Hit the Road: Modern Literary Odysseys

10:45 am to 11:30 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Melinda Walsh

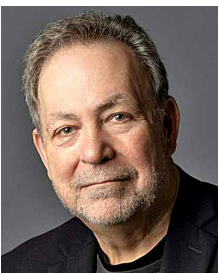
Moderator

Melinda Walsh is a relentlessly creative award-winning communicator whose experience both in front of and behind the camera has made her an expert in the intentional use of Story to make transformational shifts. Drawing from her experience as a professional marketer, mentor, and certified ontological coach, Walsh is on a mission to help others rewrite their story and step fully into their own power.

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Outside Museum, North Tent

The Queen's Path: A Revolutionary Guide to Women's Empowerment and Sovereignty



J. Michael Warner

Charles Whitfield Richards: The Artist and His Circle

J. Michael Warner grew up in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he learned how to write a good story and cook bread pudding. Formerly a patent attorney, he now writes fiction and narrative nonfiction. Warner holds a PhD in organic chemistry from Indiana University, a JD from Saint Louis University, and a diploma in Creative Writing from the University of Cambridge. His Charles Whitfield Richards biography was a Finalist in the Faulkner-Wisdom Competition for Nonfiction Book.

Noon to 12:45 pm

State Library, Fourth Floor

Charles Whitfield Richards: The Artist and His Circle

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Gayle Webre

A Place for Pelicans: The Incredible Story of Queen Bess Island

Gayle Webre holds a Master's +30 from the University of Southwestern Louisiana (currently ULL) and has worked in elementary education for 25 years, primarily designing and implementing enrichment curricula for gifted children. She generally lives with her nose in a book or talking about her latest reads. When she's not writing, reading to groups of children, hosting gatherings for her family and friends, or playing with her grandchildren, you might spot her riding her tricycle!

10:30 am to 11:00 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent C

A Place for Pelicans:

The Incredible Story of Queen Bess Island

(ages 8 to 12)

11:15 am to Noon

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Emily Welch

The Nutcracker: A Swamp Tale

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. Raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, she now lives in Shreveport with her husband, two children, and beloved dog, Magnolia. 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.

12:15 pm to 12:45 pm

Children's Author Tent 2

The Nutcracker: A Swamp Tale

(ages 5 to 8)

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Nick Weldon

Captive State: Louisiana and the Making of Mass Incarceration

Nick Weldon is senior editor at The Historic New Orleans Collection, where he is editor and co-author of *Captive State: Louisiana and the Making of Mass Incarceration* and the 2021 graphic history *Monumental: Oscar Dunn and His Radical Fight in Reconstruction Louisiana*. He has also been editor for several major museum exhibitions and has written about a wide range of topics for other publications.

11:00 am to 11:45 am

State Library, Fourth Floor

Captive State:

Louisiana and the Making of Mass Incarceration

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Margeaux Weston

Everything but Typical: Influential Neurodivergent People Who Have Shaped the World

Margeaux Weston is a Louisiana author and editor who loves stories about people and culture. She's written several nonfiction books for young readers, including *The Story of Fannie Lou Hamer* and *African American History for Kids*, and edited bestselling speculative fiction. She's also written for various media outlets. When she's not writing, she's at a festival, with family, or reading. Find her on Instagram @AuthorMargeaux or at MargeauxWeston.com.

2:15 pm to 3:15 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent D

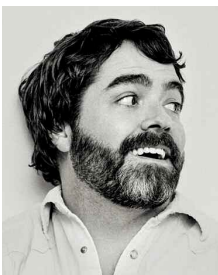
Everything but Typical: Influential Neurodivergent People Who Have Shaped the World

(all ages)

3:30 pm to 4:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Joshua Wheeler

The High Heaven: A Novel

Joshua Wheeler is the author of the essay collection *Acid West*, which was named a best book of 2018 by *Newsweek*, *The Paris Review*, and *O, The Oprah Magazine*. He's written for *The New York Times*, *Alta*, and *Harper's Magazine*. His debut novel, *The High Heaven*, is a multi-genre story tracing one woman's quest for faith across the American West during the Space Age. He teaches at Louisiana State University.

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

Fiction After the End:

Building, Surviving, and Seeing the World Anew

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2025 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Cheryl H. White

Shreveport Martyr Father Jean Pierre: Fearful Steps Strengthened by Hope

Cheryl H. White, PhD is a professor of history at Louisiana State University at Shreveport, where she holds the endowed Hubert Humphreys Professorship and the Yancey-Strain Curatorship. She has extensively researched the lives of the five Shreveport Martyrs of 1873, featured in a series of three books from The History Press and subject of a major documentary film.

9:00 am to 9:45 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Shreveport Martyr Father Jean Pierre: Fearful Steps Strengthened by Hope

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Jeremy White

InHumana: An American Healthcare Story

Jeremy White's mom suffered a stroke weeks after he published *The Little Girl at the Bottom of the Picture: A Journey of Selfless Discovery*, detailing how his wife, Edie, discovered her biological family. Before the tenured cynic penned a hopeful book, White and Edie founded the award-winning satirical publication *Red Shtick Magazine*, as well as its digital progeny, *The Red Shtick*, which served as an \$800 clue in the 2022 *Jeopardy! Tournament of Champions*.

9:00 am to 9:45 am

Bienville Building, Conference Center 118

Tender Battles: Fighting for Dignity in the Face of Decline and Bureaucracy

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Denise Wiltz-Underwood

My Hometown: Rayne, Louisiana

Denise Wiltz-Underwood, a proud native of Rayne, Louisiana, has been a devoted book lover from an early age and was inspired by her beloved grandchildren to write her debut children's book. Wiltz-Underwood believes in the power of books to capture the hearts and minds of readers and never let go. After serving three decades in the military, the retired Sergeant Major is a trainer and consultant and operates the Historic Maison Daboval Bed & Breakfast in her hometown.

10:30 am to 11:15 am

Children's Author Tent 1

My Hometown: Rayne, Louisiana
(ages 5 to 10)

11:30 am to 12:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Carolyn Nur Wistrand

She Danced with a Redfish: A Play in Two Acts

Carolyn Nur Wistrand is an award-winning playwright and educator. Her plays have been staged in New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Savannah, Atlanta, Flint, Omaha, Detroit, and New Orleans. A recipient of the MACC/NEA Award, a NEH Summer Fellowship, and winner of the Mario-Fratti-Fred Newman International Playwrighting Competition, she is a professor of English and Drama at Dillard University in New Orleans.

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

State Library, Fourth Floor

Scenes from She Danced with a Redfish

3:00 pm to 3:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Allan Wolf

Junius Leak and the Spiraling Vortex

The Vanishing of Lake Peigneur: A Graphic Novel Based on a True Story

While visiting schools in Southern Louisiana, North Carolina writer **Allan Wolf** became obsessed with the story of the Lake Lake Peigneur Texaco drilling disaster of 1980. He now has two new books on the topic: a nonfiction graphic novel titled *The Vanishing of Lake Peigneur* and a middle grade historical fiction novel titled *Junius Leak and the Spiraling Vortex of Doom*. Wolf's many picture books and novels celebrate his love of history, science, and poetry.

10:30 am to 11:30 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent D

Beyond Words: Middle Grade Graphic Novels
(ages 8 to 14)

11:45 am to 12:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent D

Secrets, Swashbucklers, and Spooky School Nights: Middle Grade Mayhem
(ages 8 to 14)

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Peter M. Wolf

The Etruscans and the Jews: New Orleans Echoes, Sardinian Shadows, Roman Shame

Peter M. Wolf is an award-winning author. His memoir, *My New Orleans Gone Away*, attracted feature reviews in *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Washington Post* before it reached the *New York Times* E-Book Best Seller list. His recent biography, *The Sugar King: Leon Godchaux, A New Orleans Legend, His Creole Slave, and His Jewish Roots* attracted praises from *The Times-Picayune* and distinguished historians such as Walter Isaacson, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and Nicholas B. Lemann.

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

The Etruscans and the Jews: New Orleans Echoes, Sardinian Shadows, Roman Shame

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Olivia Worley

Final Cut

So Happy Together: A Novel

Olivia Worley is an author born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. A graduate of Northwestern University, she now lives in New York City, where she spends her time writing thrillers, over-analyzing episodes of *The Bachelor*, and hoping someone will romanticize her for reading on the subway. She is the author of the young adult novels *People to Follow* and *The Debutantes*, and her adult debut, *So Happy Together*, was published in June 2025.

11:45 am to 12:45 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

The Fictional Façade: Thrillers About Hidden Lives, Obsession, and Family Secrets

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2:30 pm to 3:15 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent C

How to Survive a Young Adult Horror Novel (or Die Trying)
(ages 12 and up)

3:30 pm to 4:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Michael Wynne

Haunted Central Louisiana

Michael Wynne, author of over 50 books on Louisiana history, writes monthly columns for three magazines as well as other journals. Known nationally and statewide for his historic preservation work and his public and television talks on history and preservation, Wynne has received numerous awards, including a special award from the Louisiana Endowment of the Humanities and from the HISTORY network. His book, *What's Murder Among Friends*, is an international best seller.

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, Fourth Floor

Louisiana Spirits: Haunted History

10:00 am to 10:45 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

Acadia Authors Collective

Exhibitor Tents

Jack Caldwell and George Sanchez represent a collective of Louisiana authors specializing in historical fiction and mysteries.

AmberElizabeth Addison-Scott (Books by Amber)

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road
Self-published author

Adult Literacy Advocates

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Adult Literacy Advocates (ALA) provides educational programs to help adults achieve personal, employment, and family goals by improving their literacy skills.

AGdR Press

Exhibitor Tents

AGdR Press proudly presents the works of Clay C. Weill.

Alex Beck Action-Adventure Series by Author Helmut Portmann

Exhibitor Tents

Follow the adventures of Alex Beck as he and his CIA team take on foes and enemies of the US, based on the author's real-life adventures.

Ascension Parish Library

Public Library Round-Up

Free information regarding Ascension Parish Library's services and resources. We will be offering library card sign-ups and other promotional items.

Author DeeAnne Green and Assoc.

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

We will feature wholesome and unique books from local authors.

Autism and Seven Miracles by Tim Calhoun

Exhibitor Tents

Autism and Seven Miracles unveils abundant miracles in the author's life.

B

Beautifully Broken and Beautifully Brave by Maggie Fanara

Exhibitor Tents

Beautifully Broken and *Beautifully Brave*:

A mother-daughter collection born from the loss of a child, offering stories of grief, faith, and hope.

Big Lessons in Little Stories with Authors Thompson and Blackman

Exhibitor Tents

Children's books that inspire confidence, self-expression, and lifelong resiliency, including *Call Me by My Name*, *Vibrato*, *Good Morning King*, and more.

BLAC (Brilliant Leaders Among the Community)

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

BLAC is a nonprofit organization that aims to bridge the literacy gap for children and parents.

J.R. Blanes, Horror Author

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

Meet debut Horror author J. R. Blanes and pick up a copy of his new book set in New Orleans, *Portraits of Decay*!

Bootsy the Cajun Pitbull Series

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

From crawfish boils to bayou adventures, Gigi Fontenot's *Bootsy the Cajun Pitbull* celebrates Cajun culture for kids.

Borne Creative LLC

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Baby board books, coloring books, novels, historical reference

S.G. Boudreaux

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

Clean fantasy for Young Adults and New Adults

London Bridges, Author of *Grief is a Five Letter Word*

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

Poetry book and bookmarks

Karen Burks – Financial Literacy Coloring Book

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Making Sense of Dollar\$ and Cent\$ is a creative activity coloring book that introduces young scholars to financial literacy in an engaging way.

C

Cajun Kids Adventures Book Series

Exhibitor Tents

Award-winning chapter book series for ages 8-14, set in real Louisiana landscapes and full of culture and discovery. AR-approved and featured author.

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.

Captain Cheer and Friends

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

A children's book series that celebrates kindness, courage, and connection through colorful adventures and heartfelt storytelling.

Carpe Librum

Exhibitor Tents

Bookish things for bookish people!

Clare Castleberry – Southern Gothic Fiction

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Local author from Port Vincent, Louisiana, with Southern Gothic fiction

Dot Cavalier, Local Author, and Illustrator Joyce Daigle

Exhibitor Tents

T-Jay's Special Surprise is a book about a Cajun family living near a swamp and their adventures and challenges.

Jason Cavallaro

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Cracking Spines: Three Decades of Horror is my debut nonfiction book about the best obscure horror novels on the market.

**Michael Scott Clifton,
SciFi/Fantasy Author**

Exhibitor Tents

I am a multi-genre author, but I primarily write science fiction, fantasy, and magical adventure.

LaPetra Collins-Hooper, Artist

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
Books and merchandise

Contend for Christ Ministries

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Contend for Christ is a grassroots ministry seeking to spread the Gospel and inform Christians on the faith once for all delivered to the saints.

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 Cormier, Author of *Don't Judge Job's Wife*

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

This book is about my Job's wife experience when my husband suffered a fatal brain bleed. There's more to the story. Don't judge Job's wife!

Cosworth Publishing, An Odd Little Bookery

Exhibitor Tents

Exciting and silly books for kids with reading disabilities. ADA subjects like dyslexia, ADHD, OCD, and autism. Spanish and Arabic, too.

Country Roads Magazine

Sponsor Tents

In its 42nd year of publication, *Country Roads* is a cultural reporting publication focusing on South Louisiana, the Mississippi Delta, and the Gulf Coast.

Courtney Kelly Books

Exhibitor Tents

Follow the adventures of a young civil engineer as she tackles flooding in New Orleans and traffic congestion in Dallas!

D

**Joyce Daigle, Illustrator, and
Local Author Dot Cavalier**

Exhibitor Tents

T-Jay's Special Surprise is a book about a Cajun family living near a swamp and their adventures and challenges.

**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.

Books by M.V. Despenza

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Little Miracles of Katrina shares true stories of hope and faith after Louisiana's deadliest hurricane.

Books by Carol and Terrel DeVille

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

The Night Audrey Didn't Turn (nonfiction, Hurricane Audrey 1957); *Delta: The Men* (novel, New Orleans 1919)

Brad Dison, Historian and Author

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

Brad Dison will be selling signed copies of *The Trap: The Untold Story of Sheriff Henderson Jordan and the Final Pursuit of Bonnie and Clyde*

Divinely Sown (DS Publishing)

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Books divinely sown into the hearts of men to usher hope and healing.

***Does the Season Ever End?* by Paula R.B.**

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Paula debuts *Does the Season Ever End?*, a heartfelt reflection on parenting, sports, and life's changing seasons.

Dreadful Times Press

Exhibitor Tents

Horror/Thriller books

Danielle Ducrest

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

Urban Fantasy novella *Tipping the Scales* and Steampunk adult coloring books

ML Dumars and DR Books

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Fiction and nonfiction books

E

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.

**EmpowerED Learning – Books, Totes,
and Tees for Every Learner!**

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Practical strategy books and resources for autism, ADHD, transition, and classroom management—plus stylish merch for educators, parents, and students

Engineering the Way I See It

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Book about my Engineering career by Gerald Mayes

F

Capri Fambro, YA Fantasy Author

Exhibitor Tents

Four Citadel & The Key of Twelve - Book 1 in a series

Kendra Farris, Author of *What a Gift Different Can Be*

Exhibitor Tents

Friendship, acceptance, and kindness prevail in this rhyming story that follows two children who are wonderfully different from each other.

The Feelings Therapist

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

The book series, *The Feelings Therapist*, helps children identify and express their feelings in a healthy way. By Devina Parker, LMFT

Dr. Tammi Fleming – *The Leadership Detour*

Exhibitor Tents

Dr. Tammi Fleming's *The Leadership*

Detour blends memoir and leadership lessons, inspiring resilience and purpose through life's unexpected turns.

Flow: Keeping Your Heart Alive When Life Hurts by Joy Scott

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

How to keep your heart alive after rejection, loss, injustice, betrayal, disappointment, and resentment.

Stephanie Fournet, Author

Exhibitor Tents

Stephanie Fournet is a bestselling author of contemporary romance and romantic comedy. All of her novels are set in South Louisiana.

French Quarter Connection**by John D. Bertucci**

Exhibitor Tents

I'll be selling my book, *The French Quarter Connection*.

From Waterville to Baton Rouge**by Patie O'Sullivan**

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

Autobiography of one man's journey from Ireland to Baton Rouge

G**Edward Gauthier – Psychological Mystery and Science Fiction**

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

Three Novels: *Director Guy*, *Invasion of the Dream Wheel*, *The Dragon's Eye Black Hole*

Grant Parish Library

Public Library Round-Up

Learn the history of the Grant Parish Library, the services we offer, and our programs! Visit us on Facebook or our website, www.grantparishlibrary.org

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.

H**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.

Becca Hillburn @Nattosoup

Exhibitor Tents

Louisiana children's comics, illustration, and art prints

The 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.

HOMEgrown: Coastal Mississippi's Premiere Literary Arts Event

Public Library Round-Up

The 4th annual HOMEgrown is free and open to the public and runs from January 29 through January 31, 2026.

Undre Hooper, Author

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Books and merchandise

I**I Am Rick Series by Author Raheem Allen**

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Rick Raines, gifted with strange powers, battles The Shadow and uncovers his true destiny to save the world.

Iberville Parish Library

Public Library Round-Up

Come by to learn about programs and services that are unique to our library system and unlock possibility!

Invisible Hand

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

Overcoming obstacles and challenges books and workbooks.

J**Jane Austen Society of North America, Louisiana Region**

Exhibitor Tents

JASNA LA is an organization for all those who love Jane Austen. Stop by and learn about the Organization and enter to win a free annual membership.

Jefferson Parish Library

Public Library Round-Up

Jefferson Parish Library aims to make a positive difference in our community by supplying tools for information, enrichment, and enjoyment.

Jonah

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Jonah is a short novel that retells the biblical story of Jonah and the whale.

d. washington jones, author

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Children's books, toys, and novelties

Paula L. Jones

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

Paula L. Jones writes science fiction stories and romance novels, as well as books of all genres for teens and children.

Joonie P.

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Joonie P is an independent author blending thrilling dark romance and Black womanhood into stories that feel as dangerous as they are intimate.

K**Reverend Dr. Ogden L. King, II**

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

There is power in prayer and turning to God in challenging times. Rev. Dr. Ogden King II continues to preach the gospel.

Kitten Creates Couture

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Children's book and merch

Krishna West, Baton Rouge

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

Wisdom texts with contemporary explanations and practical applications

L**Stanton L'Hoste, Artist;****Ian T.M. Mungall, Author**

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

What Happened to Us, Book One and the art of *What Happened to Us*

Lady XO Roux

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

Children's books and goods that inspire creativity, confidence, and joy

LeARnLab: The Books that Come to Life!

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

At LeARnLab, we don't just create books, we create experiences! Each image in our books comes to life in the form of an animation or 3D model!

Lorna Lewis

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

A Sky Full of Love, a women's fiction novel

Terry Lindsey – Always looking for what's next

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

Terry Lindsey shares his passion for writing. Books from Religious Sci Fi of what could happen if we lose the "Word" to how did we get here?

***Living a Dream* by Richard T.**

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Living a Dream is for anyone who dares to dream and finding out it could happen at any time. Just don't give up!

LoriO, Author

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Fantasy and Contemporary Fiction Author

Louisiana Blue

Sponsor Tents

Louisiana Blue, the state's largest not-for-profit health insurer, offers coverage to meet your healthcare needs and budget. We've been here for over 90 years, committed to our mission of improving the health and lives of Louisianians.

Louisiana Citizens Against Censorship

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

LA-CAC is an all-volunteer grassroots organization dedicated to fighting attempts to ban or restrict books in Louisiana libraries.

Louisiana Library Connection

Sponsor Tents

A collection of online subscription databases provided by the State Library for the people of Louisiana.

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.

***The Loves' Cajun Way* by Cindy Rogers**

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

A children's picture book depicting a family loving their neighbors in their own unique Cajun Way. Books available for sale on site.

Loving 42: A Mother's Prayer, a Son's Journey, a Father's Strength

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Loving 42: A chronicled memoir of fate and faith that collide at the intersection of life and death by Jamar L. Gailles

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

Come by for information, swag, and a "Save the Date" for our 2026 Annual Book Bazaar!

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.

Luna Press

Exhibitor Tents

New Orleans-based publisher of illustrated books

M**C.J. Michelli, Christian Fantasy Author**

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

C.J. Michelli is a Louisiana-based emerging author of *The Idduran Saga*, a fantasy series featuring his latest book yet, *Scepter of a King*.

Millien Books

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

Three novels by C.B. Millien, and one novel and two poetry books by Tabor Millien

Dr. Tanya L. Moses

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

A best-selling author of a heartfelt children's book, empowering women's devotionals, and reflective personal journals.

Mud Puddle Media, LLC

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Children's books

Fred Mulhearn, "Louisiana's Own Cartoonist"

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

More Life in Looziana is Fred's new book of cartoons and commentary about what makes our state different, unique, and sometimes just plain weird.

Ian T.M. Mungall, Author; Stanton L'Hoste, Artist

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

What Happened to Us, *Book One* and the art of *What Happened to Us*

My Friend Rain and My Cup is Half Full

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Children's book about autism and journals for special needs parents

O**October Nights Press**

Exhibitor Tents

Horror Fiction by award-winning author, editor, & screenwriter Mark C. Scioneaux

P**P.R.E.A.C.H.**

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

"Boys to Books, Not Bars" Program

Pelican Publishing

Exhibitor Tents

Pelican Publishing has been publishing books of quality and permanence in the heart of Louisiana since 1926.

Power 4 Living

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

A ministry that has created Self-Help books and provides resources, tools, and training to empower your life to advance stronger to the next chapter of your life!

www.Power4Living.com

Prosser Project

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
Our children's books support social and emotional development and center the lives of Black children with joy and authenticity.

R

Raising Jesca

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
We are releasing a new memoir, *Raising Jesca*, about a street kid, a literature teacher, and an unbelievable encounter that changed everything.

Rapides Parish Library

Public Library Round-Up
As our mission statement proclaims, the Rapides Parish Library is "promoting literacy, guiding discovery, changing lives... for all."

Red Bean Books

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
Red Bean Books is an independent publisher focusing on children's poetry, fiction, and handmade toys.

Reese Writes Books

Exhibitor Tents
Contemporary romance novels

Relax with Words LLC, Author Sherry Lewis

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road
Romance, Fantasy, Melodrama, Children's books

Richland Parish Library

Public Library Round-Up
Richland Parish Library offers E-books, audio books, music, programming for all ages, Book Clubs, craft classes, story times, exercise classes, computers, hot spots, coffee, and games.

***The Rights: Corey's First Day of School* by Kimberly Rogers**

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road
Corey's First Day of School celebrates courage, belonging, and the strength of differences.

River Road Recipes – Junior League of Baton Rouge

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road
River Road Recipes is the all-time best-selling community cookbook series, celebrating authentic Creole and Cajun cuisine since 1959.

Holly Rose, Romance Author

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road
Holly Rose will be selling signed copies of her romance novels as well as stickers, bookmarks, and other bookish merch.

C.S. Rousseau, Author

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
C.S. Rousseau will be selling signed copies of her debut novel, *Nine Lives of the Inevitable*, a heartfelt story of nine interwoven lives.

S

The Saturni Series by A.V. Parks

Exhibitor Tents
An exciting new romantasy series by acclaimed New Orleans author A. V. Parks

Steven Scaffidi, Author of Hey Papa Dude

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road
Steve is the creator and writer of the Hey Papa Dude series of adventure stories for kids and also the author of his new book, *Life in 18 Holes*.

Selective Studio 13, LLC

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road
Epic/Dark Fantasy novels

Seventeen: The Life and Legacy of Doug Williams

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
This book is the autobiography of Doug Williams. Available for "presale" only. Release date is November 27, 2025.

Lauren Sevier and Abbie Lynn Smith

Exhibitor Tents
Local Romance authors Lauren Sevier and Abbie Lynn Smith will be selling copies of their Dystopian Western-Romance series, as well as Blind Dates with a Book and other miscellaneous items.

Lueella Shelton – *Women in the Shadows*

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
Shelton's debut book, *Women in the Shadows: Faith, Resistance, and the Women Who Waged Quiet Revolution*, grew out of a deep interest in hidden networks of resistance and the power of ordinary people to create extraordinary change.

Shreve Memorial Library

Public Library Round-Up
Shreve Memorial Library is a public entity designed to serve all individuals who live, work, own property, or attend school in Caddo Parish.

Storm Smith, Author of *The Spiral*

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road
Storm Smith is the author of *The Spiral*, a gripping novel exploring ancestral memory, trauma, and survival, from Urban Sista Publishing.

Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators

Exhibitor Tents
Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators regional organization for Louisiana and Mississippi kidlit creators.

Sons of the American Revolution (SAR)

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road
SAR promotes patriotism, serves our community, and educates and inspires future generations about the founding principles of our country.

***A Southern Enchantress* by Deborah Trahan**

Exhibitor Tents
A Southern Enchantress is Deborah Trahan's debut novel. Romantasy meets magical realism, told in dual timelines.

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.

Jessica Spinelli – *Diluted Reality*

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road
Author Jessica Spinelli will have her dark, tragic novel *Diluted Reality* for sale.

State Library of Louisiana

Sponsor Tents
We support literacy and lifelong learning for all Louisianians and provide access to a wide array of print and electronic resources, including the archival Louisiana Collection and the Louisiana Library Connection databases.

Stone Keye Books

Exhibitor Tents

Author-created books in fantasy, paranormal, and murder mystery

T

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.

TBR Books & Tea

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

A Baton Rouge bookshop where stories and sips intertwine.

Elizabeth Tezeno – *In the Shadow of Them* (Poetry)

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

In the Shadow of Them (poetry book); also featuring AMESS™ brand coloring book and journals (inspirational and creative tools)

This is How We Heal from Painful Childhoods

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

Trauma expert Ernest Ellender, PhD, presents a practical guidebook with a fresh approach to healing past intergenerational trauma.

Three Fortnights Press

Exhibitor Tents

Black woman-centered romance novels and book paraphernalia such as stickers, tote bags, and other fun merchandise

Threshold Bible Study

Exhibitor Tents

45+ Bible study books in the Catholic tradition. Choose between many biblical books and themes, written by Baton Rouge author Stephen Binz.

U

UL Press

Exhibitor Tents

UL Press is the world's largest publisher of Louisiana books.

V

Marie Veillon, 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.

W

Wanda's Books

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

Children's books

Chris Warner, Author

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Fiction and nonfiction books: *Dead People*, *Crazy People*, *Drugs & Politicians*, *Tailgater's Guide to SEC Football*; and *The Tiger Among Us*

Washington Parish Library

Public Library Round-Up

The Washington Parish Library offers books, DVDs, and technology for check out and provides free public wifi access at key locations in the community.

We Prevail by Cajunana Hackner

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

I present to you a very beautiful book that is touching many hearts: *We Prevail: A Journey of Spiritual Growth, Peace and Transformation*.

West Baton Rouge Museum

Exhibitor Tents

A regional history museum with a new publication and exhibition: *Kont Kréyol-yé (Creole Folktales)*, as well as information on our upcoming programs.

Wytisha Williams, Award-winning Author, US Army Veteran, and LPC

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

All Kids Can Fly – a life-changing children's book that teaches kids how to unlock their greatest superpower and my second book, *He Wouldn't Let Me Die!*

Andrea Wren, Children's and Historical Fiction Author

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Two historical fiction novels and the author's first children's book

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.



LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL

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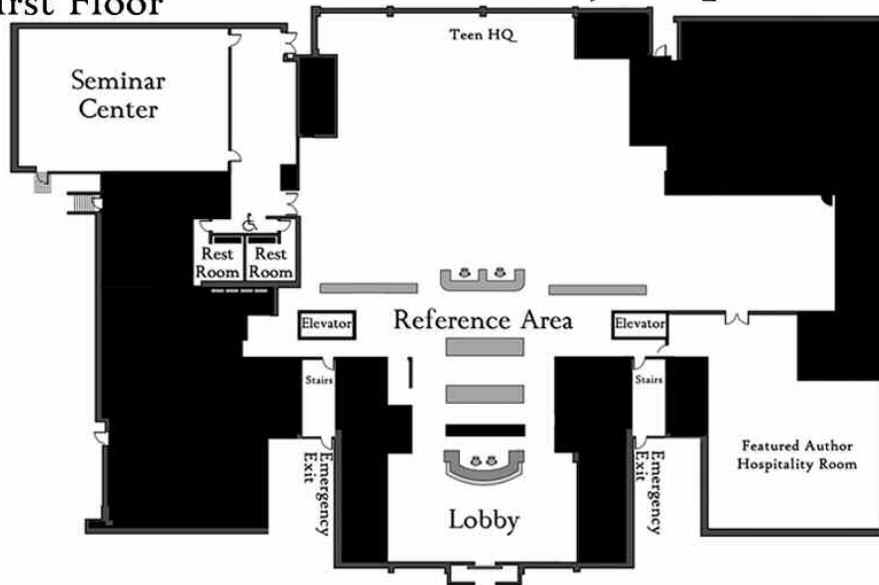
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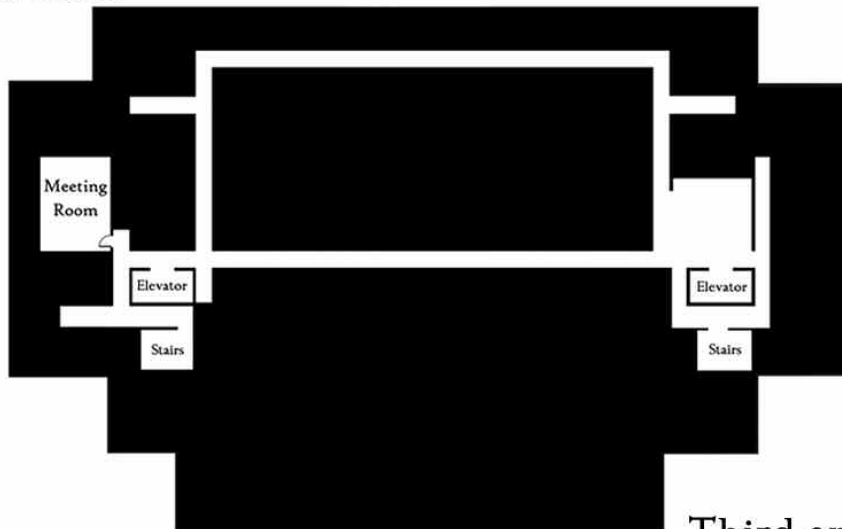
85

State Library Map

First Floor

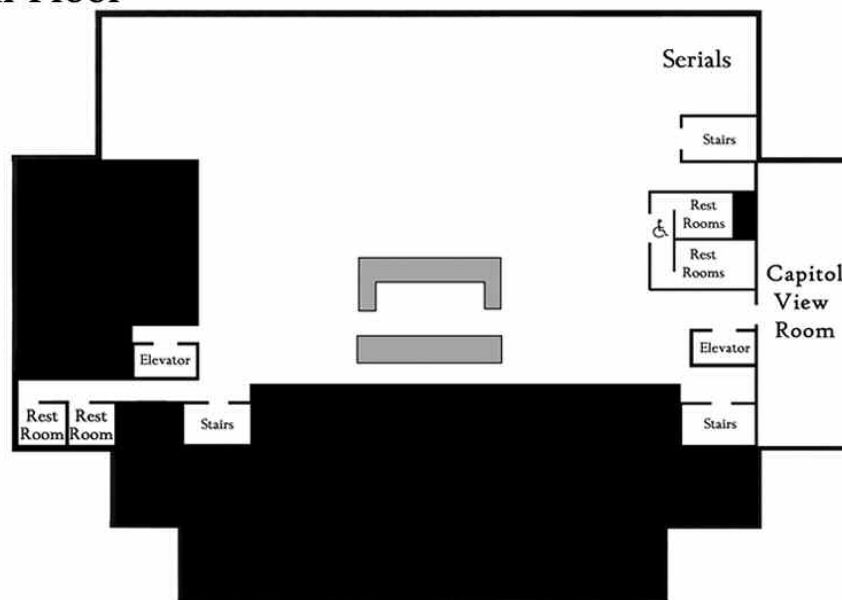


Second Floor



Third and Fourth Floors*

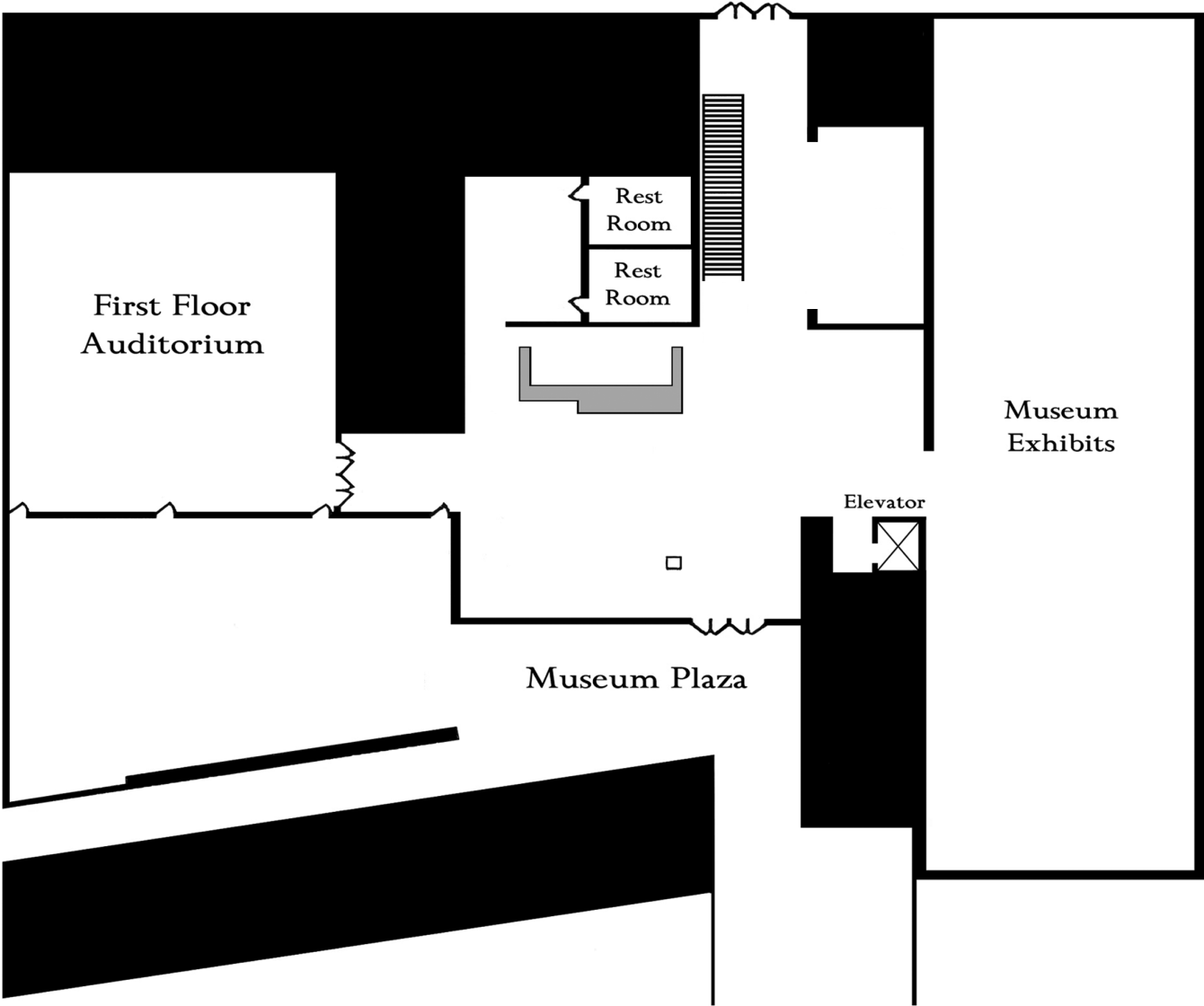
Fifth Floor



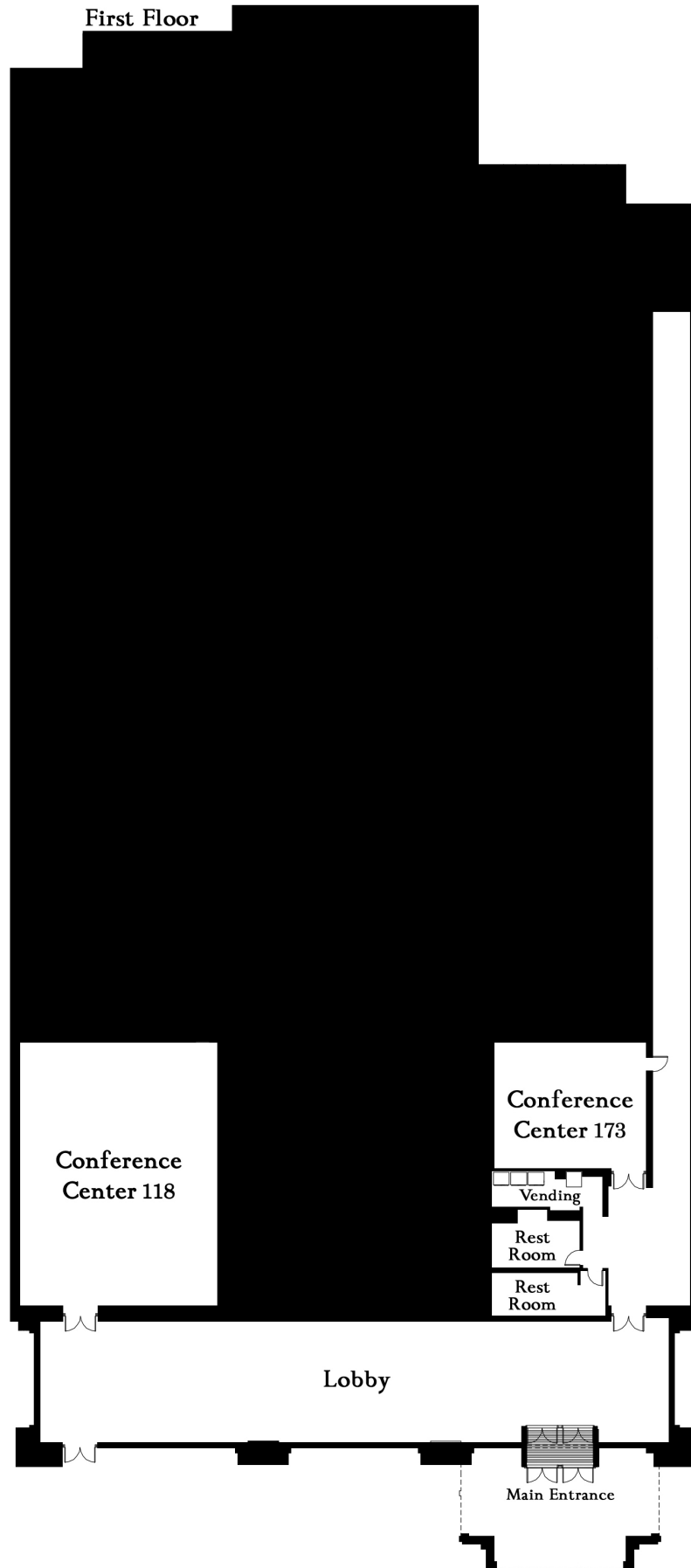
*All programs on the Third and Fourth Floor will be set up just outside the elevators

Capitol Park Museum Map

First Floor



Bienville Building Map

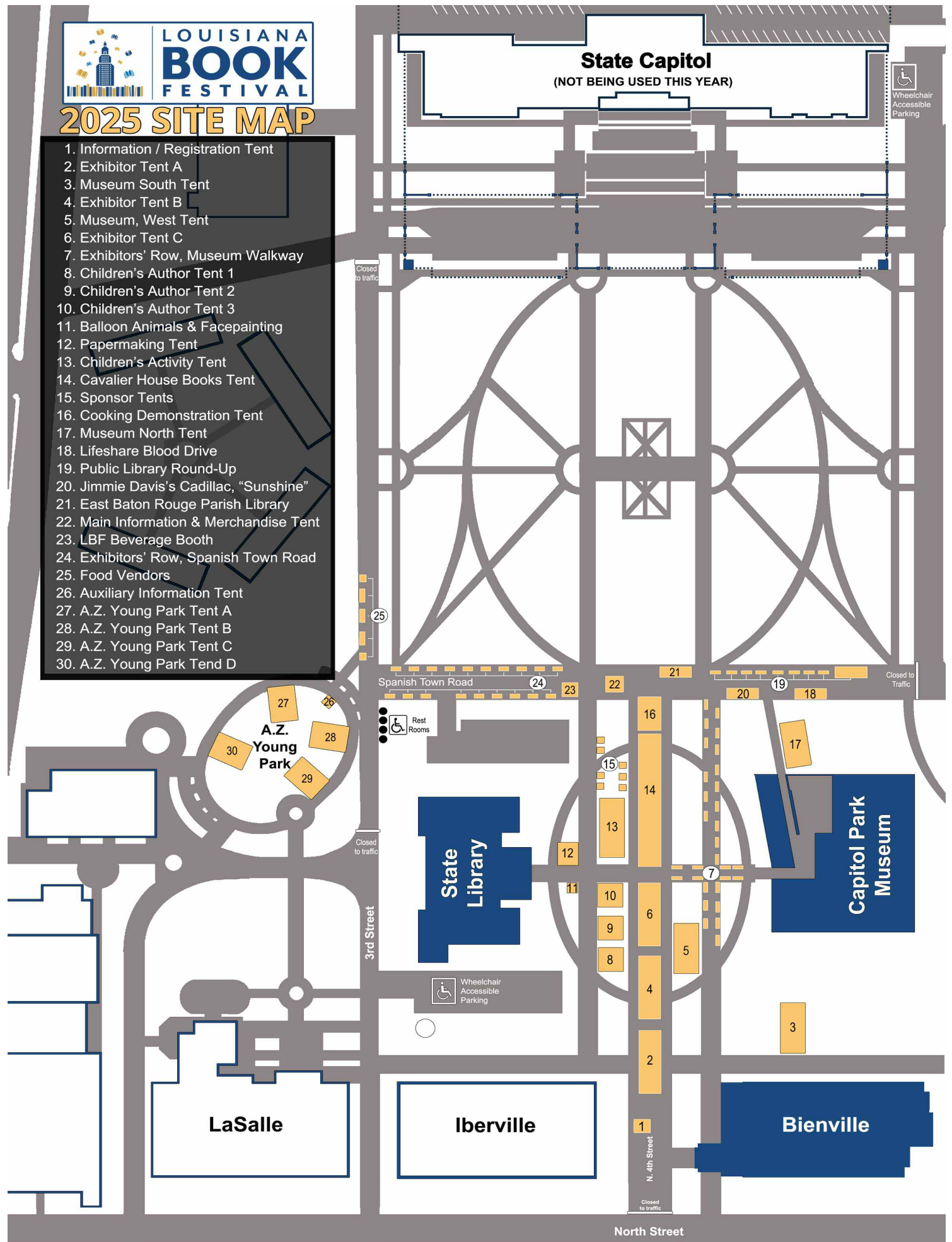




LOUISIANA
BOOK
FESTIVAL

2025 SITE MAP

1. Information / Registration Tent
2. Exhibitor Tent A
3. Museum South Tent
4. Exhibitor Tent B
5. Museum, West Tent
6. Exhibitor Tent C
7. Exhibitors' Row, Museum Walkway
8. Children's Author Tent 1
9. Children's Author Tent 2
10. Children's Author Tent 3
11. Balloon Animals & Facepainting
12. Papermaking Tent
13. Children's Activity Tent
14. Cavalier House Books Tent
15. Sponsor Tents
16. Cooking Demonstration Tent
17. Museum North Tent
18. Lifeshare Blood Drive
19. Public Library Round-Up
20. Jimmie Davis's Cadillac, "Sunshine"
21. East Baton Rouge Parish Library
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
29. A.Z. Young Park Tent C
30. A.Z. Young Park Tent D



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