

Books

MARCH BOOK EVENTS

17 authors will discuss works at Literary Feast

BY OLIVE COGDILL
Correspondent

For 29 years, the Broward Public Library Foundation's Literary Feast has been bringing an impressive array of authors to the area to help raise money for its children's and adult literacy programs and services. This year, 17 authors will come to Broward to discuss their work.

LitLIVE! features authors participating in a series of free panels from 6 to 8 p.m. March 31 at three Barnes & Noble stores. A portion of all purchases that night will be donated to the Library Foundation. Books must be purchased in the store for signing. The panels are free but ticketing is required; go to bplfoundation.org.

"The Feast in Fort Lauderdale" panel at Barnes & Noble, 2051 N. Federal Highway, will feature Robert Olen Butler ("Perfume River"), Herta Feely ("Saving Phoebe Morrow"), Yaa Gyasi ("Homegoing"), Debbie Macomber ("If Not for You"), Joyce Maynard ("Under the Influence") and Gareth Russell ("Young and Damned and Fair: The Life of Catherine Howard, Fifth Wife of King Henry VIII").

"The Mystery Panel in Plantation" at Barnes & Noble, 591 S. University Drive, includes Linda Fairstein ("Killer Look"), Heather Graham ("A Perfect Obsession"), Mark Greaney ("Gunmetal Gray"), Andrew Gross ("The One Man"), Sophie Hannah ("The Closed Casket, an Agatha Christie Hercule Poirot mystery") and Juan Martinez ("Conviction: The Untold Story of Putting Jodi Arias Behind Bars").

"The Panel in the Pines" at Barnes & Noble, 11820 Pines Blvd. (Pembroke Crossings), Pembroke Pines, includes Dr. James Hamblin ("If Our Bodies Could Talk"), Jennifer Keishin Armstrong ("Seinfeldia"), Lawrence Millman ("At the End of the World: A True Story of Murder in the Arctic"), Thomas Swick ("The Joys of Travel: And Stories That Illuminate Them") and Ronald C. White ("American Ulysses: A Life of Ulysses S. Grant").

A Night of Literary Feasts begins at 6 p.m. April 1 with an authors reception at the Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six in Fort Lauderdale, followed by dinners with authors in private homes and upscale restaurants. Tickets are \$175 at [bpl foundation.org](http://bplfoundation.org) or call 954-357-7382.

Children's literature conference

Librarians, teachers, writers, storytellers and parents will hear the latest trends in literature for youth during the free 30th annual Conference on Children's Literature and 15th annual Ashley Bryan Art Series from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. March 17 at the Main Library, 100 S. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale, 954-357-7336. The conference theme is "One Children's Book, Many Ways: Exploring Educational Options and Approaches Within a Single Title." Guests will include Laura Vaccaro Seeger, award-winning author of "First the Egg," "The Hidden Alphabet" and "Dog and Bear" series, and Brian Pinkney, award-winning illustrator of "The Faithful Friend," "In the Time of the Drums" and "Duke Ellington."

Celebrate Dr. Seuss

Dr. Seuss' rhyming tales of Horton, the Grinch and cats that live in hats never go out of style. The fifth annual SeussFest will celebrate the spirit of Seuss' work from noon to 4 p.m. today at the Alvin Sherman Library, Nova Southeastern University, 3100 Ray Ferrero Jr. Blvd., Davie. The event is free. Visit tinyurl.com/jthy7gu for more information. Last year, more than 4,000 people showed up to celebrate Seuss.

Writers LIVE! returns

The Palm Beach Library system continues its popular Writers LIVE! program with an array of reader-favorite events. Events are free but reservations are required; visit pbclibrary.org. Events this month at the Lantana Road Branch Library, 4020 Lantana Road, Lake Worth, 561-304-4500: Jade Chang, "The Wangs vs. the World," 2:30 p.m. today; Diana Abu-Jaber, "Life Without a Recipe: A Memoir of Food and Family," 2 p.m. Thursday; Derek Palacios, "The Mortifications," 6:30 p.m. March 20; At the Lantana Road Branch Library, 4020 Lantana Road, Lake Worth, 561-304-4500: Joy Fielding, "She's Not There," 2 p.m. April 3. At West Boynton Beach Library, 9451 Jog Road, Boynton Beach, 561-734-5556: Holly Brown,



KATHERIN MARKS/COURTESY

Linda Fairstein will participate in the Broward Library Foundation's Literary Feast scheduled March 31-April 1.

"This is Not Over," 2 p.m. March 16. At Palm Beach Gardens Library, 11303 Campus Drive, Palm Beach Gardens, 561-626-6133: Peter Heller, "Celine," 6:30 p.m. March 27.

Jewish book festivals

Kate Siegel based her essay collection "Mother, Can You Not?" on her popular Instagram account, @Crazy-JewishMom, in which she details life with her mother, Kim Friedman, who redefines the term "helicopter mom." Siegel will discuss her book as part of the David Posnack Jewish Community Center's Diane & Barry Wilen Jewish Book Festival, 6:30 p.m. March 29 at the NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale, One E. Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale. Tickets are \$25, available at dpjcc.org/culturalarts, call 954-434-0499, Ext. 336.

Jonathan Richard Rabb's novel "Among the Living" chronicles Holocaust survivor Yitzhak Goldah's arrival in Savannah in 1947 to live with his only remaining relatives. There, Yitzhak discovers a fractured world, where Reform and Conservative Jews live separate lives. Rabb will discuss his novel as part of the Bagels & Books series at 10 a.m. March 13 at the Mandel Jewish Community Center, 5221 Hood Road, Palm Beach Gardens. Tickets are \$12 for Literary Society member; \$15 for guests. Kate Siegel discusses "Mother, Can You Not?" during Ladies Night Out at 7 p.m. March 30 at the Blue Martini, CityPlace, 700 S. Rosemary Ave., West Palm Beach. Tickets are \$36 for Literary Society author and reader level; \$42 for guests. For more information or to register for any of the upcoming book events, go to JCCOnline.com/bookfestival.

Author talks

Martha Lemasters' memoir "The Step: One Woman's Journey to Finding her Own Happiness and Success" chronicles her life as a single mother working at Cape Kennedy during the Apollo years. Lemasters will be the guest speaker during the author and scholarship fundraiser luncheon sponsored by the American Association of University Women, Pompano Beach Branch, beginning at 11:30 a.m. March 11 at the Lighthouse Point Yacht Club, 2701 NE 42nd St., Lighthouse Point. Tickets are \$55. For reservations, call 954-570-5423 or email pompano_scholar@yahoo.com

Humorist Lea Hope Becker, author of "My Name's Not Robbie Any More," will be the guest speaker for the National League of American Pen Women at 11:30 a.m. March 16 at the Delray Beach Golf Club, 2200 Highland Ave. Cost is \$32 per person. Information at bocapenwomen.org or email polowhite@aol.com.

Fort Lauderdale author Elaine Viets discusses her novel "Brain Storm" at 6 p.m. March 15 at the Doreen Gauthier Lighthouse Point Library, 2200 NE 38 St. The event is free. For information, call 954-946-6398. Viets also will be the keynote speaker at the Helen B. Hoffman Plantation Library's annual Authors Lunch 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 18 at the Jacaranda Country Club, 9200 W. Broward Blvd., Plantation. Travel writer Margery Anderson will also speak. Tickets are \$45; contact Connie Pracht at pracht0@gmail.com.

Poetry and spoken word

Quick the Poet will be the host for the fourth annual "Let's Speak Truth" Poetry and Spoken Word Night at 6:30 p.m. Friday in the

Cotilla Gallery, Alvin Sherman Library, on the campus of Nova Southeastern University, 3301 College Ave., Davie. The event is free. For more information, contact Christie Williams at wchrist@nova.edu, 954-262-2106 or Lethesha Harris, lethesha@nova.edu, 954-262-5476.

Festival of the Arts Boca

The 11th Annual Festival of the Arts BOCA continues with two literary programs at the Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real. Tickets range from \$30 to \$50 per person at festivalboca.org or call 866-571-2787.

Presidential historian, Pulitzer Prize-winner, and Time contributing editor Jon Meacham will discuss "The Art of Leadership: Lessons from the American Presidency" at 7 p.m. March 6. Meacham's presidential biographies include "Destiny and Power: The American Odyssey of George Herbert Walker Bush" and "Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power."

Brian Greene, author of "The Elegant Universe," discusses "Beyond Einstein: Space, Time and Reality," at 7 p.m. March 7.

Mystery, Romance writers gather

Author Amy Atwell will lead the workshop "My Book is Online: Now What?" during the Florida Romance Writers meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday at Tigertail Lake Recreational Center, 580 Gulf Stream Way, Dania Beach. Cost is \$10 for members, \$15 for nonmembers. For information, e-mail Janet Little at janetfrankslittle@gmail.com.

Broward County author Neil Placky discusses "Exploiting Your Bundle of Rights: Promoting and Profiting from Audio, Translations and Short Stories" during the Florida Mystery Writers of America meeting at 11:30 a.m. March 18 at the Embassy Suites, 661 NW 53rd St., Boca Raton. Cost is \$25 for members; \$30 for nonmembers. For more information, harriet@ottenheimer.com

Poetry workshop

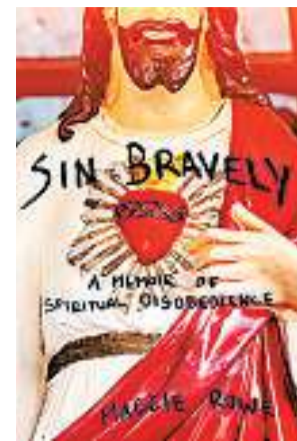
The workshop "Writing from Life: A Close Look at the Work of Jack Gilbert" focusing on his poem "The Great Fires" and his essay "Real Nouns" will be 1 p.m. March 12 at the Old School Square, 51 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. Cost is \$10 per person. The workshop will be led by poet Kevin Goodan, the author of "In The Ghost-House Acquainted" and "Let the Voices," and is sponsored by the Palm Beach Poetry Festival. The free Bards of a Feather round robin poetry reading is scheduled at 12:30 p.m. March 15 at the Green Cay Nature Preserve, Community Room, 12800 Hagen Ranch Road, Boynton Beach. Visit palmbeachpoetryfestival.org.

The mysteries of facials

Nancy J. Cohen will discuss her latest mystery "Facials Can Be Fatal" with author Alyssa Maxwell, "Murder at Rough Point," at 1 p.m. today at Murder on the Beach Mystery Bookstore, 273 NE Second Ave., Delray Beach, 561-279-7790, murderonthebeach.com. Cohen also will be featured during the Coral Springs Festival of the Arts, March 17-19, csfoa.com. Cohen will discuss "Conflict and Character," 6 p.m. March 17 at Coral Springs Center for Performing Arts and participate in "A Writer's Life Panel" at 4:30 p.m. March 18. Email olinecog@aol.com

Spiritual book roundup

BY BARBARA MAHANY | Chicago Tribune



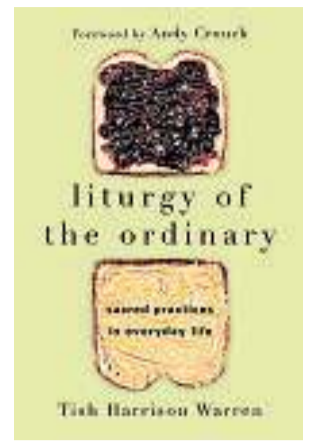
"Sin Bravely" by Maggie Rowe, Soft Skull, 225 pages, \$16.95

Admittedly, the "religious humor" section of the bookshelf is markedly sparse. Yet that's where you'll find "Sin Bravely: A Memoir of Spiritual Disobedience" from comedy writer Maggie Rowe, who's written for stage and screen, including scripts for "Arrested Development" and Netflix's "Flaked." Since 2002, she's been performing in and producing the Comedy Central stage show "sit 'n spin," Los Angeles' longest-running spoken-word extravaganza, described as "part theatre, part 12-step meeting, part tent revival."

Don't let the funnies fool you: It's an unflinching examination of the dangers of literalism in the religion department.

As early as 6 years old, Rowe found herself obsessed with a fear of going to hell, one so extreme it drove her to become "an outrageously dedicated" born-again Christian. At 19, Rowe checked herself into an evangelical psychiatric facility, where a ragtag cast of lovably kooky characters proved prescriptive.

It's there that Rowe launches her anti-damnation campaign, finally subscribing to her version of Martin Luther's admonition: "Sin bravely in order to know the forgiveness of God." And she tests her newfound theology in, of all places, a strip club's amateur night.



"Liturgy of the Ordinary" by Tish Harrison Warren, IVP, 184 pages, \$16

Tish Harrison Warren's debut work, "Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life," is rooted in the humble humdrum of day-after-day existence. This is spiritual guidance for the bed-maker, the teeth-brusher, the traffic-snarled among us. This is one ordinary day turned inside out, its hallowed script revealed, liturgical underpinnings exposed.

Warren, an Anglican priest, campus minister, writer, wife and mother of two, unlocks "a practical theology of the everyday," and she does so by seamlessly coupling ordinary moments — awaking, brushing teeth, losing keys, eating leftovers, sitting in traffic, checking emails — with the sacred.

She beautifully ties making the bed to the creation story, to God's making beauty from chaos. In a consideration of tooth brushing, she draws us into a meditation on Christianity as an embodied faith, one in which our senses — our physical pleasures — draw us closer, more emphatically to the divine. Even a fight with her husband becomes a platform for seeking shalom.

The purity of her vision, the clarity of her writing, make effortless work of the notion that the small acts of our everyday are what shape us into the sacred vessels we are meant to be.

Best sellers

HARDCOVER FICTION

1. "Lincoln in the Bardo" by George Saunders (Random House, \$28). Last week: 1
2. "Norse Mythology" by Neil Gaiman (Norton, \$25.95). Last week: 2
3. "Echoes in Death" by J.D. Robb (St. Martin's, \$27.99). Last week: 3
4. "Empire's End: Aftermath (Star Wars)" by Chuck Wendig (Del Rey, \$28.99). Last week: —
5. "Humans, Bow Down" by James Patterson and Emily Raymond; illustrated by Alexander Ovcinikov (Little, Brown, \$28). Last week: —
6. "Heartbreak Hotel" by Jonathan Kellerman (Ballantine, \$28.99). Last week: 4
7. "Never Never" by James Patterson and Candice Fox (Little, Brown, \$28). Last week: 5
8. "A Piece of the World: A Novel" by Christina Baker Kline (Morrow, \$27.99). Last week: —
9. "The Girl Before: A Novel" by J.P. Delaney (Ballantine, \$27). Last week: 7
10. "The Whistler" by John Grisham (Doubleday, \$28.95). Last week: 6

HARDCOVER NONFICTION

1. "The Legend of Zelda: Art & Artifacts" by Nintendo (Dark Horse, \$39.99). Last week: —
2. "Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis" by J.D. Vance (Harper, \$27.99). Last week: 2
3. "Killing the Rising Sun: How America Vanquished World War II Japan" by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard (Holt, \$30). Last week: 3
4. "This Life I Live: One Man's Extraordinary, Ordinary Life and the Woman Who Changed It Forever" by Rory Feek (Thomas Nelson, \$24.99). Last week: 1
5. "Jesus Always: Embracing Joy in His Presence" by Sarah Young (Thomas Nelson, \$15.99). Last week: 5
6. "Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow" by Yuval Noah Harari (Harper, \$35). Last week: —
7. "The Magnolia Story" by Chip and Joanna Gaines (Thomas Nelson, \$26.99). Last week: 4
8. "Big Agenda: President Trump's Plan to Save America" by David Horowitz (Humanix, \$26.99). Last week: 6
9. "The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World" by Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu with Douglas Abrams (Avery, \$26). Last week: 8
10. "Stealing Fire: How Silicon Valley, the Navy SEALs, and Maverick Scientists Are Revolutionizing the Way We Live and Work" by Steven Kotler and Jamie Wheal (Dey Street, \$27.99). Last week: —

For the week ended Feb. 26, compiled from data from independent and chain bookstores, book wholesalers and independent distributors nationwide.

— Publishers Weekly