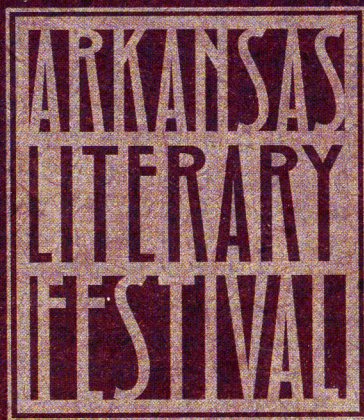


Hear the rest of the story.

He hadn't won the contest—Who had? The pigtailed soprano? The brothers staging the detective play?—so afterward she and Richard treated him to ice cream. Vividly, she recalled thinking such a night was all she'd ever wanted, thinking for half an hour that she'd known precisely what life was for; it was for this.

excerpt from *Corpus Christi: Stories* by Bret Anthony Johnston



April 15-17, 2005

River Market District • Downtown Little Rock, Arkansas • www.arkansasliteraryfestival.org

Festival Underwriter
WAL★MART®

Hosted by



ARKANSAS LITERARY FESTIVAL

April 15-17, 2005



April 15, 2005

Dear Arkansas Literary Festival participants,

Welcome to the second annual Arkansas Literary Festival. I am proud to be the honorary co-chair and a sponsor of this event. Last year's inaugural festival exceeded all expectations, and I know the festival will only get bigger and better each year. This year's event is bringing to Little Rock some of America's best-selling authors, including conservative icon William F. Buckley, *Friday Night Lights*' Buzz Bissinger and Pulitzer Prize winner Rick Bragg. It also will attract readers from across Arkansas to celebrate the written word. Best of all, the proceeds will benefit adult literacy programs across Arkansas.

Special thanks go to the sponsors who are underwriting the festival and to the many volunteers who are making this possible. Most of all, thanks to Arkansas Literacy Councils for all it does for literacy in Arkansas.

I know everyone will have a wonderful time this weekend taking in the sights and sounds of the River Market District while meeting some of America's top authors. Happy reading!

Sincerely,
Win Rockefeller
Lt. Governor

Greetings!

Welcome to Little Rock and to the Arkansas Literary Festival!

I want to extend a special appreciation to this year's authors. We are grateful to them for donating their time and for sharing with us their passion of reading, writing, thought, and discussion.

Throughout the weekend, you will see evidence of the individuals and businesses who comprise the successful team of financial, volunteer, and community supporters who made this festival possible. They have brought an added spirit of excitement and dedication to this celebration of literacy, language, and the written word.

Amidst the author presentations and discussions, the book tents, the exhibitor tents, and the overall fun and hospitality that naturally occurs in the River Market District, I ask that you take a few minutes to reflect on something other than what you've seen or heard at the festival.

There are many adults among us who cannot read well enough to use a map to get here. They can buy a book for a special child—but they can't read it to him or her. Many won't even bother to come to the festival for one reason—it's about "reading."

Arkansas has fifty programs that will benefit from the proceeds of this event. They are local nonprofit literacy councils that recruit and train volunteers to help adults improve their reading, writing, and math skills. Supported by their literacy council, a volunteer tutor who can spend time one-on-one with an adult needing help will give a gift that lasts forever—literacy.

There is a "Student-Tutor Recruitment" area at the festival where you can visit with literacy council representatives about becoming a volunteer tutor. There are also other ways you can support your local literacy program. And, if you know of someone who needs better reading skills, we'll be glad to tell you more.

On behalf of the literacy councils and the ALC Board of Directors and staff, I hope your festival experience is delightful and memorable. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Marie Clinton Bruno
Executive Director

"To encourage literature and the arts is a duty which every good citizen owes to his country."

— George Washington

Special Events

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

National Public Radio's 'The Book Guys'

**6:00 p.m. and 7:15 p.m., Main Library,
100 Rock St., Darragh Center Auditorium**

Presented by Central Arkansas Library System and University of Arkansas Little Rock Public Radio. Join 'The Book Guys'—Allan Stypeck and Mike Cuthbert—and special guests (including Bret Lott) for a taping of two live shows for future broadcast. Participants are encouraged to bring in books for appraisals.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

Wine, Dine & Sign: Party with the Authors

6:00 p.m., historic Trapnall Hall
Sponsored by Entergy

This snappy casual event gives you the opportunity to rub elbows with festival authors. Books are available on-site for purchase. We even provide you a pen so you may have your book signed by the author when you bump into him or her!



Pub or Perish: A Reading on the Hoof

7:00-8:00 p.m., Underground Pub
8:00-9:00 p.m., Ernie Biggs Piano bar
**9:00-10:00 p.m., Mallard's Bar, The Peabody
Little Rock**

Sponsored by the *Arkansas Times*

A reading on the fly and off the cuff—a poetry/fiction “slam” that takes place in three River Market venues in just over three hours. Spend 45 minutes at each place with 15 minutes to pay your tab and move to the next

venue (by popular demand, the second venue will include grub so you can grab a bite to eat while you have your mind broadened).

ArkansasTimes

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

Children's Breakfast

9:00 a.m., Clinton Presidential Center
Sponsored by the Clinton Presidential Center

What did George Washington eat for breakfast? Come find out! Special guests in colonial period dress will serve you as you learn about what George Washington might have eaten. Keynote speaker Gail Karwoski discusses her historical fiction for children. Receive your very own autograph book to collect authors' signatures. After breakfast, come to the festival and enjoy more fun stuff for kids! **Admission: \$15/child, \$5/accompanying adult.** Seating is limited.



FOCAL: Friends of Central Arkansas Library System Used Book Sale

**Friday (9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.),
Saturday (9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.),
Sunday (1:00-4:00 p.m.),
Main Library (basement), Cox Creative
Center (basement) & River Market
Books & Gifts**



Letters About Literature Awards Ceremony

**10:30 a.m., Old Supreme Court
Chambers in the State Capitol Building**
By invitation only

Letters About Literature is an annual writing competition sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, Target Stores, and the Arkansas Center for the Book. Students are invited to write to an author explaining how the author's words changed their lives in some way or “gave them wings.” For more information on this presentation or the next competition, contact Jane Thompson, Arkansas State Library, (501) 682-5288.

“Totally Booked” Literary Gala

6:00 p.m., Clinton Presidential Center
Sponsored by Tyson Foods

**Special Guest and Featured Speaker:
William F. Buckley, Jr.**

Join us at the new Clinton Presidential Center. Dress to impress at this black-tie-optional gala to benefit literacy programs in Arkansas. The evening begins with a 6:00 p.m. cocktail hour and silent auction of literary treasures, followed by dinner and dessert, during which you will be entertained by high-profile guests in the challenging literary quiz show “Name That Tome.” **Tickets \$125/person.**



All proceeds benefit Arkansas
Literacy Councils.

Official Schedule and Program Notes

FRIDAY 15 APRIL 2005

1:00 P.M.

CELEBRATING SOUTHERN FOOD AT THE MILLIONAIRE ROOM WITH JOHN T. EDGE. Southern Food expert and frequent NPR commentator John T. Edge will examine the more interesting themes and histories of Southern Food while you dine on some of the best fried chicken (and apple pie) in Little Rock. Among his many other credits, John T. is the author of a James Beard Award-nominated cookbook, *A GRACIOUS PLENTY: Recipes and Recollections of the American South*, and *FRIED CHICKEN: An American Story* and *APPLE PIE: An American Story*. John T.'s work has been featured in every edition of the BEST FOOD WRITING anthology since 2001.

JOHN T. EDGE

MODERATOR: Carol Ann Fitzgerald

VENUE: MILLIONAIRE ROOM, 7th & Broadway

The \$25 ticket price includes a mouth-watering lunch and a signed copy of *The Oxford American's* new Southern Food Issue, which was guest-edited by John T.

5:00-5:50 P.M.

A FEAST OF LITERARY JOURNALS: THEIR PRESENCE & FUTURE.

The Georgia Review and *The Southern Review* are two of the oldest and most acclaimed journals in the country. Among them they have published Toni Morrison, Gabriel García Márquez, I.B. Singer, Eudora Welty, William Faulkner, and countless others. For writers and readers of all inclinations, this is a special opportunity to hear, in one spot, the editors of two award-winning reviews discuss the world of publishing and getting published. Interviewed by a third editor.

BRET LOTT (editor, *The Southern Review*) &

T.R. HUMMER (editor, *The Georgia Review*)

MODERATOR: Marc Smirnoff (editor, *The Oxford American*)

VENUE: DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

SATURDAY 16 APRIL 2005

11:00-11:50 A.M.

1. MEMOIR WRITING. NPR commentator Beth Finke discusses her riveting memoir about going blind, *LONG TIME NO SEE*, which was named one of the *Chicago Tribune's* best nonfiction books of 2003. "She says things that others typically won't," said one reviewer, "and it is both refreshing and thought-provoking. You will laugh, cry, and get angry with her, but you will be left with respect and admiration."

BETH FINKE

MODERATOR: Ann Nicholson

VENUE: DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

THIS EVENT WILL BE FILMED BY C-SPAN.

2. SCIENCE: THE MIRACLES OF EINSTEIN. To honor the centennial of "The Miracle Year of Albert Einstein," John S. Rigden will explore the meaning and wonder of the great scientist's accomplishments.

JOHN S. RIGDEN

MODERATOR: Professor Larry Coleman

VENUE: HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

3. POETRY IN OUR DAILY LIVES: THE SACRED AND THE SECULAR.

In addition to discussing their own work, T.R. Hummer, the poet and editor of *The Georgia Review*, and Andrea Hollander Budy, one of

Arkansas' most gifted poets, will grapple with the question of why poetry is relevant. The moderator is an Arkansas native and the editor of *WORKING THE DIRT: An Anthology of Southern Poets*.

T.R. HUMMER & ANDREA HOLLANDER BUDY

MODERATOR: Jennifer Horne

VENUE: WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

12:00-12:50 P.M.

1. ARKANSAS AUTOBIOGRAPHY I: FROM GOULD TO THE WHITE

HOUSE. President Clinton's White House diarist revisits her home state to read from and talk about her powerful and sensitive autobiography.

JANIS F. KEARNEY

MODERATOR: Evangeline Parker

VENUE: DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

THIS EVENT WILL BE FILMED BY C-SPAN.

2. ART: AN AMATEUR PAINTER ABROAD. James Morgan left Little Rock to follow his dream of painting in France. He now returns home with a brilliant book of adventures and insights. (In addition to writing books, Mr. Morgan used to be an editor at *Playboy*, *Southern Magazine*, and *Esquire*. He also wrote extensively for the *Arkansas Times*.)

JAMES MORGAN

MODERATOR: Erin Branham

VENUE: HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

3. MYSTERY: DANGEROUS WRITING. Because of his unique ability to weave palpitating street-tough mysteries with his passion for old blues music, Ace Atkins stands out in a crowd. Kinky Friedman says, "If Raymond Chandler came from the South, his name would be Ace Atkins."

ACE ATKINS

MODERATOR: David Stricklin

VENUE: WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

1:00-1:50 P.M.

1. ARE THE FRENCH VILE? The *National Review Online's* controversial "Euro-Press" columnist pointedly answers the question, ARE THE FRENCH VILE? (Mr. Boyle's conclusion: More than you think.) Warning: This session is not for the faint of heart.

DENIS BOYLES

MODERATOR: Paul Greenberg

VENUE: DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

THIS EVENT WILL BE FILMED BY C-SPAN.

2. WRITING AFRICA. Makuchi, who is from Cameroon but now teaches at the University of Southern Mississippi, writes powerful fiction about the lives of African women.

MAKUCHI

MODERATOR: Dr. Maurice A. Lee

VENUE: WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

3. SELF-PUBLISHING: A HOT ALTERNATIVE TO TRADITIONAL

PUBLISHING. Did you know that some very famous writers once tapped into the time-honored tradition of self-publishing? William Shakespeare, William Blake, Walt Whitman, William Faulkner, E. Lynn Harris, and Terry McMillan all started out using the low-cost strategy of self-publishing. Today, the equipment and technology necessary are lower than ever before and Reginald Martin—editor, writer, professor, and the founder of ReginaldMartinBooks.com—will discuss this alternative means of getting your book out there in an age when commercial publishing is dominated by a few major publishing houses and it is harder than ever to get your manuscript accepted by traditional means.

REGINALD MARTIN

VENUE: HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

2:00-2:50 P.M.

1. THE WIDE WORLD OF NONFICTION I. Few authors know how to connect as deeply with readers both on the page and in person as Pulitzer Prize winner Rick Bragg. Come early because Mr. Bragg, and his rock-star charisma, packs them in.

RICK BRAGG

MODERATOR: Sonny Rhodes

VENUE: DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

2. ARCHITECTURE IN THE OZARKS. Beauty, economy, intimacy, harmony. These are words used to describe homes and small-scale projects designed by superstar architect Marlon Blackwell, who lives and teaches in Fayetteville, Arkansas. By listening closely to his clients and to specific landscapes, Blackwell creates whimsical, extremely well-crafted, and mood-elevating structures. Princeton Architectural Press has just published *AN ARCHITECTURE OF THE OZARKS: The Works of Marlon Blackwell*, a beautiful book that clearly places Blackwell in the pantheon of master architects.

MARLON BLACKWELL

VENUE: HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

3. OPRAH NOVELS. Ah, the writer's dream: getting tapped by Oprah. Mr. Lott is the author of *JEWEL*, which Oprah picked for her 6-million-strong Book Club in 1999, and Ms. Fowler is the author of *BEFORE WOMEN HAD WINGS*, which Oprah made into a popular TV movie.

BRET LOTT & CONNIE MAY FOWLER

VENUE: WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

3:00-3:50 P.M.

1. MEMOIR WRITING II: VIETNAM TO THE U.S.A. After the Fall of Saigon, the author and his mother and sisters immigrated to the Fort Chaffee refugee camp in Arkansas. (Mr. Pham's father, a South Vietnamese Air Force pilot was incarcerated in communist "camps," and so could not join them.) The author grew up to serve as a helicopter pilot in Operation Desert Storm and later he flew U.N. personnel into Somalia. An unforgettable story.

QUANG X. PHAM

MODERATOR: Paul Reyes

VENUE: DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

THIS EVENT WILL BE FILMED BY C-SPAN.

2. NOVELS BY WOMEN. Catherine Landis's first novel, *SOME DAYS THERE'S PIE*, was called the "Dixie equivalent of Sherwood Anderson's *WINESBURG, OHIO*," by *Newsday* and the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* called it "remarkable." Her new novel, *HARVEST*, has been getting an even more excited response ("a beautiful American story" is Silas House's description). *BURNING TULIPS*, a novel by Diane Payne, has earned the esteem of the poet Vivian Gornick, who says it is "strong, moving, and direct" and a "vivid reminder of how startling is the actuality of childhood in this country."

DIANE PAYNE & CATHERINE LANDIS

VENUE: HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

3. THE WIDE WORLD OF NONFICTION II. An emergency medical technician and volunteer fireman, Mr. Perry is also the highly praised author of the underground sensation *POPULATION: 485: Meeting Your Neighbors One Siren at a Time*. His new work, *OFF MAIN STREET*, is a collection of short nonfiction adventures ranging in topic from cowboys to Klan wizards to small-town funerals. *USA Today* says Mr. Perry's

writing "swells with unadorned heroism. He is the real thing." Salon says, "Michael Perry is like a sensitive, new-age Hemingway."

MICHAEL PERRY

MODERATOR: Carol Ann Fitzgerald

VENUE: WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

4:00-4:50 P.M.

1. ROMANCE: WRITING ABOUT LOVE. By popular demand, we proudly initiate a panel on Romance Writing, one of the most successful and impassioned genres in writing. Both authors and the moderator are all award-winning romance authors. (Many secrets to be revealed!)

LAURA PARKER CASTORO & GINA WILKINS

MODERATOR: Sally Hawkes

VENUE: HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

2. FICTION: SHORT STORIES BY MEN. Time to have fun with some young writers. Mr. Brockmeier, the genre-spanning and great Little Rock short-story writer and novelist, swaps insights with Mr. Johnston, former champion skate punk turned award-winning writer, and Mr. Whorton, Jr., a comic writer with an ever-expanding readership of happy devotees.

KEVIN BROCKMEIER, BRET ANTHONY JOHNSTON, & JAMES WHORTON, JR.

MODERATOR: Carol Ann Fitzgerald

VENUE: WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

4:00-5:30 P.M.

3. THE ARKANSAS COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

PRESENTS: THE WAR IN IRAQ. Jon Lee Anderson, *The New Yorker's* chief correspondent in both Iraq and Afghanistan, and the author of *THE FALL OF BAGHDAD*, an instantly acclaimed classic, has firmly established himself as one of the most thoughtful, nuanced, and impartial observers in the Middle East. Mr. Anderson is taking time from his extremely full schedule to fly overseas to Arkansas. Quite frankly, we feel very fortunate to have him visiting. In addition to being a great reporter and writer, he is also a gifted speaker.

JON LEE ANDERSON

MODERATOR: Warwick Sabin

VENUE: DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

THIS EVENT WILL BE FILMED BY C-SPAN.

5:30 P.M.

SPECIAL SIGNING BY WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY, JR.

VENUE: THE SIGNING TENT (please see map).

SUNDAY 17 APRIL 2005

1:00-1:50 P.M.

1. RELIGION I: WHAT IT MEANS TO BE CHRISTIAN IN THE "WEIRD MOMENT" WE LIVE IN. David Dark, who teaches at Christ Presbyterian Academy in Nashville, is the author of two books on popular culture & Christianity. His latest, *THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO AMERICA*, was given a starred review in *Publishers Weekly*, which said Mr. Dark is a "passionate, articulate, absurdly well-read interpreter of popular culture" who has written a book in which "nearly every page has something to make readers pause, laugh, think or pray."

DAVID DARK

MODERATOR: Dorothy Miles

VENUE: DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

2. FIRST NOVELS: BREAKING THROUGH. After years of toiling in various aspects of the literary business (bookstore owner, journal editor, teacher, newspaper columnist—not to mention, used-car salesman), the irrepressible Sonny Brewer has hit it huge with his first novel, *THE POET OF TOLSTOY PARK* (which Pat Conroy calls “unique and wonderful”). He joins another tremendous new talent: Joshilyn Jackson, whose debut novel *GODS IN ALABAMA* is generating praise from all quarters (“What a storyteller!,” says Adriana Trigiani, “What a new, original voice!”). Catch these stars on the rise.

SONNY BREWER & JOSHILYN JACKSON

MODERATOR: Sonny Rhodes

VENUE: HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

3. POETRY II: ARKANSAS POETS. Marck Beggs, Michael Heffernan, and Terry Wright come together to read from their work, discuss their craft, and even riff on how their poetry reflects their shared homeland. Marck Beggs's newest collection of poems is *LIBIDO CAFÉ*; Michael Heffernan's sixth book of poems, *LOVE'S ANSWER*, won the Iowa Poetry Prize; Terry Wright's *FUGUE EPISODES* is forthcoming this year.

TERRY WRIGHT, MARCK BEGGS, & MICHAEL HEFFERNAN

MODERATOR: Jennifer Horne

VENUE: WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

2:00-2:50 P.M.

1. WOMEN IN AMERICAN HISTORY: SOME UNSUNG HEROES.

Carol Berkin, professor of American history in New York City (but a native of Alabama), is the winner of the Bancroft Prize, finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, a talking head on PBS and History Channel documentaries, and generally hilarious, wise-cracking, good company. Her newest book is *REVOLUTIONARY MOTHERS: Women in the Struggle for America's Independence*. It's the story of women who are often left out of general accounts—among them Benjamin Franklin's daughter who leveraged her social contacts to raise over \$300,000 for the patriot cause and North Carolina housewives who boycotted British cloth.

CAROL BERKIN

MODERATOR: Dorothy Miles

VENUE: DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

2. FROM RAP TO CHRISTIANITY. We'll just let Russell Simmons introduce Mykel: “Mykel Mitchell has found his spiritual center and has sought to share it with a generation desperately trying to connect God with their culture. His new book *WORD: For Everybody Who Thought Christianity Was for Suckas!* decodes the myth of a sanitized religion and shows the ‘gangsta’ and revolutionary side of Christianity. Tracking his courtship with rap music back to the early days of KDAY and developing a personal truth with his God through rap music, hood experiences, and life's victories (great and small), he shows that eternal bliss begins by building the foundation in this moment. And word! that is as Hip Hop as it gets.”

MYKEL MITCHELL

VENUE: HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

3. THE INS AND OUTS OF NOVEL-WRITING. Join Lisa Tucker, the author of three novels, who has had her writing described as “lyrical” by *People* magazine, and James Whorton, Jr., who has been called “jauntily entertaining” by the *New York Times*, for a lively discussion on the joys and trials of novel writing.

LISA TUCKER & JAMES WHORTON, JR.

MODERATOR: Christina Standerfer

VENUE: WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

3:00-3:50 P.M.

1. ARKANSAS AUTOBIOGRAPHY II: COUNTRY MUSIC. Written in the spirit of Loretta Lynn's *COAL MINER'S DAUGHTER*, Maxine Brown's long-anticipated autobiography, *LOOKING BACK TO SEE*, is drawing praise from all quarters. As a member of the Arkansas hit-makers the Browns, Miss Brown's thrilling life included an early friendship with Elvis Presley and gigs on “The Ed Sullivan Show” and the Grand Ole Opry. “Here, for the first time, is an inside look at the ‘Golden Age’ of country music from a woman's perspective.... It's a strong book, and a vital book,” says music scholar Charles Wolfe. This is a rare appearance by a crucial Arkansas artist and we hope you will join us to hear her stories.

MAXINE BROWN

MODERATOR: Stephen Koch

VENUE: DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

2. WRITING ADVICE: PROSE TIPS FROM PROS. How do you become a better writer? How do you get your writing noticed by publishers? Which books do you need to read? What are publishers looking for? What writing advice should you never listen to? All this and more is addressed by three highly accomplished pros.

BRET ANTHONY JOHNSTON, JAMES MORGAN, & CATHERINE LANDIS

MODERATOR: Marc Smirnoff

VENUE: HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

3. ARKANSAS POLITICS. The second edition of the late Diane D. Blair's seminal *ARKANSAS POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT: DO THE PEOPLE RULE?* will be released in April thanks to the coauthorship of Jay Barth, one of the most accomplished scholars of Arkansas politics and history.

JAY BARTH

MODERATOR: Warwick Sabin

VENUE: WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

4:00-4:50 P.M.

1. WORLD WAR TWO'S BLOODIEST BATTLE. A *Band of Brothers* for the Pacific, this is the gut-wrenching but ultimately triumphant story of the Marines' most ferocious—yet largely forgotten—battle of World War II. Between September 15 and October 15, 1944, the First Marine Division suffered more than 6,500 casualties fighting on a hellish little coral island in the Pacific. Drawing on extensive interviews with Marine veterans, Bill Sloan follows a small group of young Americans through this incredibly vicious campaign and rescues their heroism from obscurity.

BILL SLOAN

MODERATOR: Alex Vernon

VENUE: DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

4:00-5:30 P.M.

2. BUZZ ON BASEBALL: THE ST. LOUIS CARDINALS. Following up on his football masterpiece, *FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS*, Buzz Bissinger turns his keen powers loose on a subject dear to the hearts and minds of many Arkansans: the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team. In *3 NIGHTS IN AUGUST*, Buzz gets unprecedented access to Cards' manager Tony LaRussa during a three-game series with the Chicago Cubs. The result is a book that early readers are ranking alongside *MONEYBALL* as essential baseball, and sports, reading. What a way to kick off the baseball season!

BUZZ BISSINGER

MODERATOR: Andy Pearson

VENUE: HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

All events and times are subject to change.

Please check the information booth for schedule changes.

Authors will sign their books in the ALF Signing Tent approximately 15 minutes after their sessions.

Featured Authors by Special Interest

ARCHITECTURE

Marlon Blackwell, AIA

ARKANSANS

Jay Barth (Little Rock)
 Marck Beggs (Little Rock)
 Marlon Blackwell
 (Fayetteville)
 Kevin Brockmeier
 (Little Rock)
 Maxine Brown
 (North Little Rock)
 Andrea Hollander Budy
 (Mountain View)
 Laura Parker Castoro
 (Pine Bluff)
 Michael Heffernan
 (Fayetteville)
 Janis F. Kearney (born in
 Gould, lives in Chicago)
 James Morgan (Little Rock,
 lives in France)
 Gina Wilkins
 (Central Arkansas)
 Terry Wright (Conway)

ART

James Morgan

CHILDREN

Tammy Carter Bronson
 Toran Isom
 Walter "The Giant Story-
 Teller" Mayes
 Carla Killough McClafferty
 Brian Kinder
 Gail Karwoski
 La'Tonya Richardson
 Symphony Arts Partners
 Instrument Petting Zoo

COUNTRY MUSIC

Maxine Brown

CREATIVE NONFICTION

Denis Boyles
 Rick Bragg
 David Dark
 James Morgan
 Michael Perry

EMT/FIREFIGHTER

Michael Perry

FIRST NOVELS

Sonny Brewer
 Joshilyn Jackson

HISTORY

Jay Barth
 Carol Berkin
 Bill Sloan

INTERNATIONAL

Jon Lee Anderson (Iraq)
 Denis Boyles (France)
 Makuchi (Cameroon)
 James Morgan (France)

LITERARY JOURNALS

The Georgia Review,
 Bret Lott
The Southern Review,
 T.R. Hummer
The Oxford American's
 Southern Food Issue,
 guest-edited by John T. Edge

MEMOIR

Maxine Brown
 Beth Finke
 Janis F. Kearney
 Quang X. Pham

MILITARY

Quang X. Pham
 Bill Sloan

MYSTERY

Ace Atkins

NOVELS

Ace Atkins
 Kevin Brockmeier
 Connie May Fowler
 Catherine Landis
 Bret Lott
 Diane Payne
 Lisa Tucker
 James Whorton, Jr.

POETRY

Marck Beggs
 Andrea Hollander Budy
 Michael Heffernan
 T.R. Hummer
 Terry Wright

POLITICAL

Jay Barth
 Denis Boyles
 William F. Buckley, Jr.
 Janis F. Kearney

PROFESSIONAL SKATEBOARDER

Bret Anthony Johnston

PULITZER PRIZE WINNERS

Buzz Bissinger
 Rick Bragg

RAP

Mykel Mitchell

RELIGION

David Dark
 Mykel Mitchell

ROMANCE

Laura Parker Castoro
 Gina Wilkins

SCIENCE

John S. Rigden

SELF-PUBLISHING

Reginald Martin

SHORT STORIES

Kevin Brockmeier
 Bret Anthony Johnston
 Makuchi
 James Whorton, Jr.

SOUTHERN FOOD

John T. Edge

SPY NOVELS

William F. Buckley, Jr.

SPORTS

Buzz Bissinger

VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Beth Finke

WAR REPORTING

Jon Lee Anderson

Author Sessions, Panels & Presentations

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

1:00 P.M.

CELEBRATING SOUTHERN FOOD
WITH **JOHN T. EDGE**
MODERATOR: CAROL ANN FITZGERALD
VENUE: MILLIONAIRE ROOM, 7TH & BROADWAY

5:00-5:50 P.M.

A FEAST OF LITERARY JOURNALS
EDITORS: T.R. HUMMER & BRET LOTT
MODERATOR: MARC SMIRNOFF
VENUE: DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

11:00-11:50 A.M.

MEMOIR WRITING
AUTHOR: BETH FINKE
MODERATOR: ANN NICHOLSON
VENUE: DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

SCIENCE: THE MIRACLES OF EINSTEIN
AUTHOR: JOHN S. RIGDEN
MODERATOR: PROFESSOR LARRY COLEMAN
VENUE: HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

POETRY IN OUR DAILY LIVES
PANEL: T.R. HUMMER &
ANDREA HOLLANDER BUDY
MODERATOR: JENNIFER HORNE
VENUE: WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

12:00-12:50 P.M.

ARKANSAS AUTOBIOGRAPHY I:
FROM GOULD TO THE WHITE HOUSE
AUTHOR: JANIS F. KEARNEY
MODERATOR: EVANGELINE PARKER
VENUE: DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

ART: AN AMATEUR PAINTER ABROAD
AUTHOR: JAMES MORGAN
MODERATOR: ERIN BRANHAM
VENUE: HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

MYSTERY: DANGEROUS WRITING
AUTHOR: ACE ATKINS
MODERATOR: DAVID STRICKLIN
VENUE: WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

1:00-1:50 P.M.

ARE THE FRENCH VILE?
AUTHOR: DENIS BOYLES
MODERATOR: PAUL GREENBERG
VENUE: DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

WRITING AFRICA
AUTHOR: MAKUCHI
MODERATOR: DR. MAURICE A. LEE
VENUE: WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

SELF-PUBLISHING: A HOT ALTERNATIVE TO
TRADITIONAL PUBLISHING
AUTHOR: REGINALD MARTIN
VENUE: HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

2:00-2:50 P.M.

THE WIDE WORLD OF NONFICTION I
AUTHOR: RICK BRAGG
MODERATOR: SONNY RHODES
VENUE: DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

ARCHITECTURE IN THE OZARKS
AUTHOR: MARLON BLACKWELL
VENUE: HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

OPRAH NOVELS
PANEL: BRET LOTT & CONNIE MAY FOWLER
VENUE: WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

3:00-3:50 P.M.

MEMOIR: VIETNAM TO THE U.S.A.
AUTHOR: QUANG X. PHAM
MODERATOR: PAUL REYES
VENUE: DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

NOVELS BY WOMEN
PANEL: DIANE PAYNE & CATHERINE LANDIS
VENUE: HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

THE WIDE WORLD OF NONFICTION II
AUTHOR: MICHAEL PERRY
MODERATOR: CAROL ANN FITZGERALD
VENUE: WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

4:00-4:50 P.M.

ROMANCE: WRITING ABOUT LOVE
PANEL: LAURA PARKER CASTORO & GINA WILKINS
MODERATOR: SALLY HAWKES
VENUE: HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

FICTION: SHORT STORIES BY MEN
PANEL: KEVIN BROCKMEIER, BRET ANTHONY
JOHNSTON, & JAMES WHORTON, JR.
MODERATOR: CAROL ANN FITZGERALD
VENUE: WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

4:00-5:30 P.M.

THE ARKANSAS FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE
PRESENTS: THE WAR IN IRAQ
AUTHOR: JON LEE ANDERSON
MODERATOR: WARWICK SABIN
VENUE: DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

5:30 P.M.

SPECIAL SIGNING AT THE SIGNING TENT
AUTHOR: WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY, JR.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

1:00-1:50 P.M.

RELIGION I: WHAT IT MEANS TO BE CHRISTIAN IN
THE "WEIRD MOMENT" WE LIVE IN

AUTHOR: DAVID DARK
MODERATOR: DOROTHY MILES
VENUE: DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

FIRST NOVELS: BREAKING THROUGH
PANEL: SONNY BREWER & JOSHILYN JACKSON
MODERATOR: SONNY RHODES
VENUE: HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

POETRY II: ARKANSAS POETS
PANEL: TERRY WRIGHT, MARCK BEGGS, & MICHAEL
HEFFERNAN
MODERATOR: JENNIFER HORNE
VENUE: WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

2:00-2:50 P.M.

WOMEN IN AMERICAN HISTORY:
SOME UNSUNG HEROES
AUTHOR: CAROL BERKIN
VENUE: DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

RELIGION II: FROM RAP TO CHRISTIANITY
AUTHOR: MYKEL MITCHELL
VENUE: HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

THE INS AND OUTS OF NOVEL-WRITING
PANEL: LISA TUCKER & JAMES WHORTON, JR.
MODERATOR: CHRISTINA STANDERFER
VENUE: WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

3:00-3:50 P.M.

ARKANSAS AUTOBIOGRAPHY II: COUNTRY MUSIC
AUTHOR: MAXINE BROWN
MODERATOR: STEPHEN KOCH
VENUE: DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

WRITING ADVICE: PROSE TIPS FROM PROS
PANEL: BRET LOTT, JAMES MORGAN, &
CATHERINE LANDIS
MODERATOR: MARC SMIRNOFF
VENUE: HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

ARKANSAS POLITICS
AUTHOR: JAY BARTH
MODERATOR: WARWICK SABIN
VENUE: WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

4:00-4:50 P.M.

WORLD WAR TWO'S BLOODIEST BATTLE
AUTHOR: BILL SLOAN
MODERATOR: ALEX VERNON
VENUE: DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

4:00-5:30 P.M.

BUZZ ON BASEBALL: THE ST. LOUIS CARDINALS
AUTHOR: BUZZ BISSINGER
MODERATOR: ANDY PEARSON
VENUE: HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

All events and times are subject to change.
Please check the information booth for
schedule changes. Authors will sign their books
in the ALF Signing Tent approximately 15 minutes
after their sessions.

Children's and Youth Activities

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Sponsored by *Little Rock Family*

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Main Library Garden:

Crafts and writing activities—FREE

MAIN LIBRARY, 3RD FLOOR—ALL SESSIONS FREE

- 10:30 Brian Kinder
11:00 Tammy Carter Bronson: *Polliwog*
(bilingual Spanish/English)
12:00 Walter the Giant Storyteller
12:30 Walter Mayes: Best Books for Children
1:00 Carla McClafferty
1:30 Gail Langer Karwoski
2:00 Symphony Arts Partners
2:30 Symphony Arts Partners Instrument
Petting Zoo
3:00 Tammy Carter Bronson: *The Kaleidonotes*
3:30 Brian Kinder

MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY—

INCLUDED IN MUSEUM ADMISSION PRICE

- 11:00 Symphony Arts Partners
11:30 Symphony Arts Partners Instrument
Petting Zoo
12:00 Tammy Carter Bronson

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Main Library Garden:

Crafts and writing activities—FREE

MAIN LIBRARY, 3RD FLOOR—ALL SESSIONS FREE

- 1:00 Toran Isom
(from NPR's "Once Upon a Book");
Spirituality in Children's Literature
2:00 La'Tonya Richardson
2:30 Walter the Giant Storyteller
3:00 Walter Mayes: Best Books
for Children
3:30 Brian Kinder

MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY—

INCLUDED IN MUSEUM ADMISSION PRICE

- 3:00 Tammy Carter Bronson

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

TEEN WRITING SCHEDULE,

COX CREATIVE CENTER, 3RD FLOOR

Sponsored by Pulaski Technical College

- 10:00-11:30 a.m. Prose Poetry: A Collision of Craft
with Sandy Longhorn, MFA
University of Arkansas
12:00-1:30 p.m. Exploring Poetry Through the
Senses with Antoinette Brim,
MFA Antioch University
2:00-3:30 p.m. Life Between the Lines:
The Basic Ingredients of a Good
Poem with Joey Cole, MFA LSU
3:45-4:30 p.m. Reading of Works and
Presentation of Awards

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

COX CREATIVE CENTER, 3RD FLOOR

- 1:00-1:30 p.m. Central Arkansas Library System Teen
Advisory Board presents a medieval
mummer's play of *Saint George
and the Dragon*

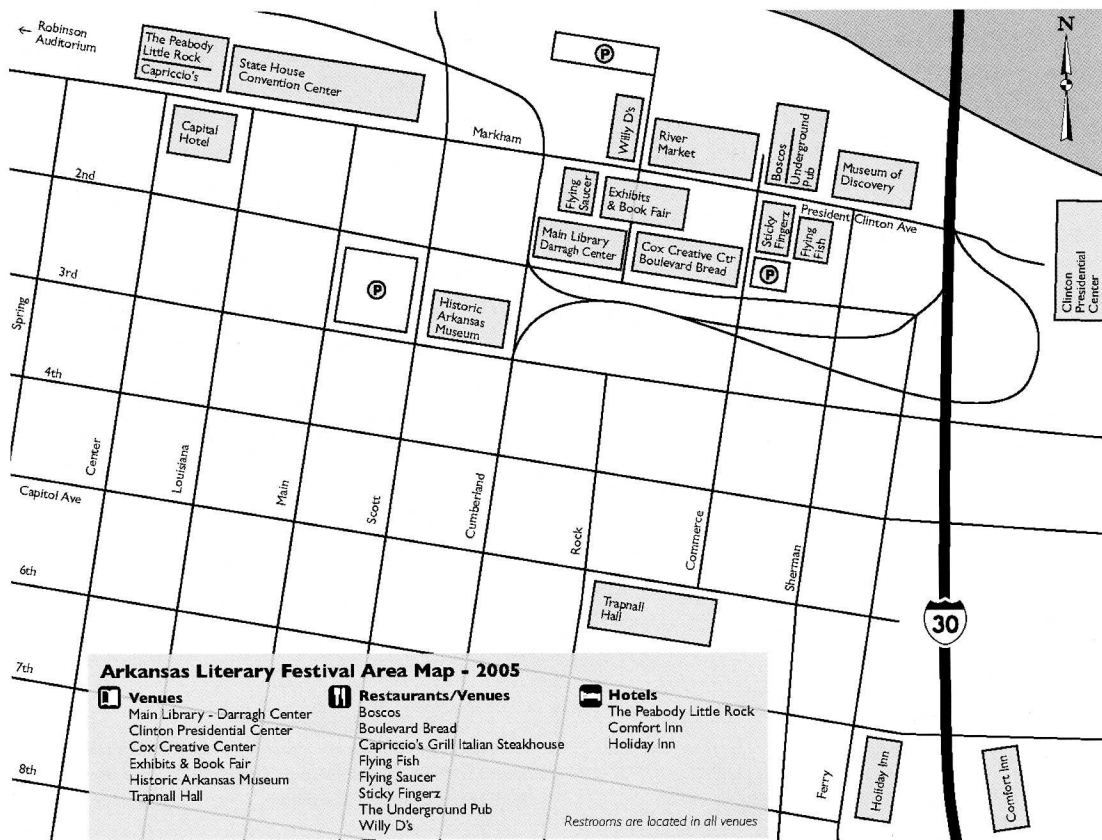
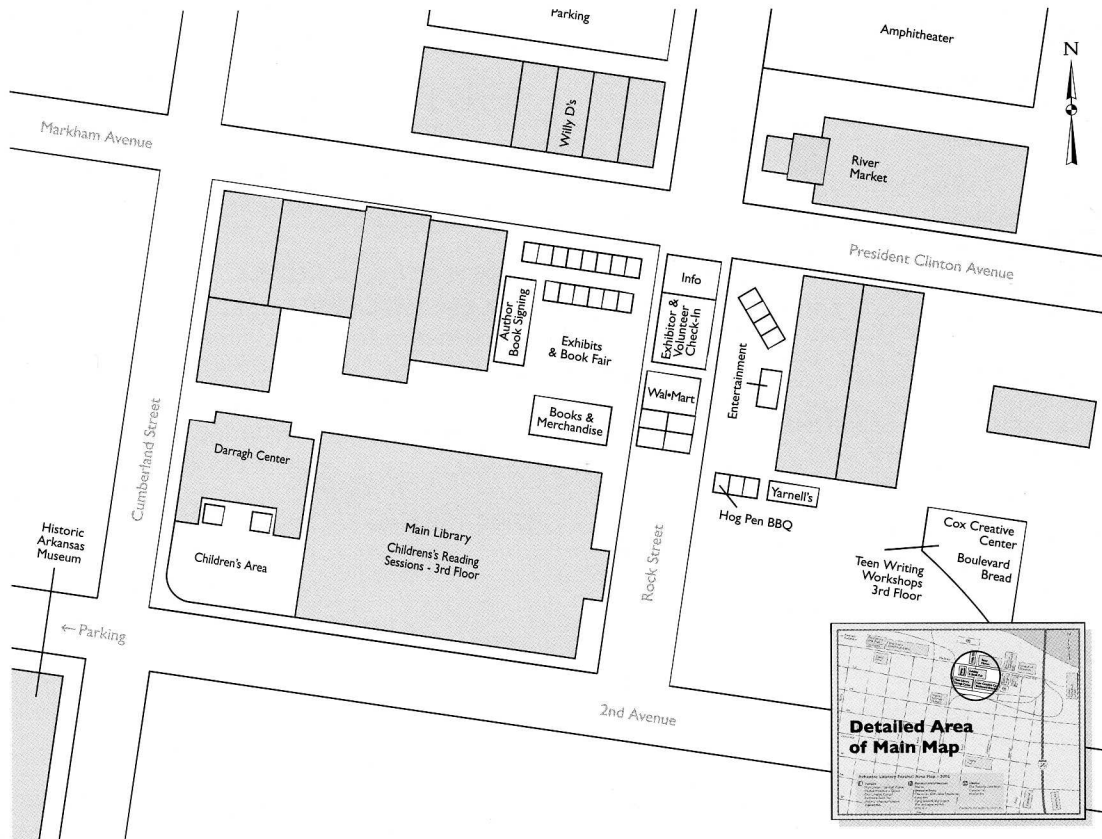
MAIN ENTERTAINMENT STAGE

- 3:00-3:30 p.m. *SAY IT LOUD!* Tribute to Langston Hughes

COX CREATIVE CENTER, 3RD FLOOR

- 3:00-4:30 p.m. *SAY IT LOUD!* presents author and workshop
leader Dr. Tony Medina

All events and times are subject to change. Please check the information booth for schedule changes. Authors will sign their books in the ALF Signing Tent approximately 15 minutes after their sessions.



EXHIBITORS

Arkansas Fantasy & Science Fiction
Coalition
Arkansas Library Association
Arkansas Literacy Alliance for Children
with Visual Impairments
Arkansas Review
Arkansas State Library
Arkansas Well Child Reads!
Arkansas Writer's Conference
Bel-Mar Jewelry
Hendrix-Murphy Foundation
Just Me Music
MEMS (Metropolitan Emergency
Medical Services)
The Oxford American
River Road Press
Thompson Gale
University of Arkansas Press
Wal-Mart
Writer's Colony at Dairy Hollow

VENDORS

Hog Pen BBQ (Conway)
Papa John's Pizza
Yarnell's Ice Cream

PARTICIPATING RIVER MARKET RESTAURANTS

Willy D's Dueling Piano Bar
Bosco's
Boulevard Bread
Capriccio Grill at The Peabody
Little Rock
Flying Fish of Little Rock
The Flying Saucer
Sticky Fingerz Rock-N-Roll
Chicken Shack
The Underground Pub

ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

11:00 a.m. Boondogs (Roots/Pop)
12:00 p.m. Kevin Kerby (Singer/Songwriter)
1:00 p.m. Tim Anthony Trio (Reggae/Soul/Jazz)
2:00 p.m. Brian & Jeanette Driscoll (Folk/Bluegrass)
3:00 p.m. Steve Davison (Acoustic Fingerstyle Guitar)
4:00 p.m. Diamond State Ceili Band (Traditional Irish Dance Band)

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

12:00 p.m. UALR Guitar Ensemble, Michael Carenbauer, Director
(Acoustic Guitar Ensemble)
1:00 p.m. Bethany Devine (Inspirational/Gospel/Soul)
2:00 p.m. Rodney Block Jazz Trio (Smooth Jazz)
3:00 p.m. Say It Loud: Youth Poetry Jazz
3:00 p.m. AR Youth Symphony Orchestra
(Performing at Rivermarket Pavilion)

VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to the following organizations
and individuals for volunteering
at the Festival:

Arkansas Reading Association
Capitol Chapter of the Arkansas
Alumni Association
CenterPoint Energy
Fiction Writers of Central Arkansas
Literacy Councils
National Honor Society
National Writing Project
of Central Arkansas
Pulaski Bank
Pulaski Technical College

MARKHAM STREET/ CLINTON AVENUE SHUTTLE

Look for the Markham Street/Clinton
Avenue Shuttle for a ride to the Clinton
Presidential Center and the Clinton
Museum store. The shuttle will run
Saturday from 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and
Sunday from 12:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

A portion of proceeds from
book sales benefits literacy
programs in Arkansas.

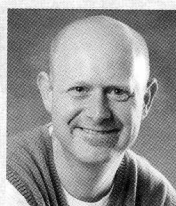
Featured Authors



JON LEE ANDERSON



ACE ATKINS



JAY BARTH



MARCK L. BEGGS



CAROL BERKIN



BUZZ BISSINGER



MARLON BLACKWELL

JON LEE ANDERSON

One of America's most respected foreign correspondents, Jon Lee Anderson is the author of *THE FALL OF BAGHDAD* (Penguin), an eyewitness account of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq about which the *Washington Post* raved, "this book captures a time and a place that no [reader] will forget." Author Daniel Benjamin described the book as "horrifying and surreal," adding that Anderson's "extraordinary powers of observation and surpassing humanity...uncovers the many-layered, unending tragedy that is Iraq."

Anderson is a staff writer for *The New Yorker* whose regular "Letter from Baghdad" has generated wide attention and helped solidify his reputation as a "journalist's journalist." He is also the author of *THE LION'S GRAVE: Dispatches from Afghanistan* (Anderson was among the first few Western journalists to enter Afghanistan after 9/11), *GUERRILLAS: Journeys from the Insurgent World*, and the monumental, landmark biography *CHE GUEVARA: A Revolutionary Life*. **Saturday, April 16 4:00-5:30 P.M.**

DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

Presented by the Arkansas Committee on Foreign Relations.

C-SPAN will film this event.

ACE ATKINS

By the time he turned 30, Ace Atkins had published three critically acclaimed novels: *CROSSROAD BLUES*, *LEAVIN' TRUNK BLUES*, and *DARK END OF THE STREET*. Before turning to writing full-time, Atkins worked as a crime reporter at the *Tampa Tribune*, where he earned a Pulitzer Prize nomination and a Livingston Award nomination for his seven-part series, "Tampa Confidential," about an unsolved murder of a Tampa socialite in 1956. Upon publication of his first novel, the young Alabama native drew accolades from the *New York Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and *Entertainment Weekly*. According to Kinky Friedman, "If Raymond Chandler came from the South, his name would be Ace Atkins." Elmore Leonard has said, "Ace Atkins is a real Ace of a writer."

Atkins, now 31, has returned to his native South and lives on a century-old farm outside Oxford, Mississippi, with his faithful mutts, Elvis and Polk Salad Annie. In his spare time he teaches at the University of Mississippi and explores Memphis, the Delta, the North Mississippi hills, and of course, New Orleans. He has recently completed the novel *DIRTY SOUTH* (William Morrow), a noir adventure set in the New Orleans rap industry that addresses the question: What would you do if you had only 24 hours to save the life of a friend?

Saturday, April 16 12:00 NOON-12:50 P.M.

WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

JAY BARTH

A native of central Arkansas, Jay Barth attended Hendrix College in Conway, where he graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in American Studies in 1987. He then studied at the University of North

Carolina at Chapel Hill, receiving an M.A. in Political Science in 1989 and a Ph.D. in 1994. Since 1994, Barth has been a faculty member in the department of politics at Hendrix College, where he has served as chair of the department and chair of the gender studies program. Barth has published a number of works on Arkansas politics, including his coauthorship, with the late Diane D. Blair, of the second edition of *ARKANSAS POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT: Do the People Rule?* (U. of Nebraska Press), which probes recent social and political events, including the election of an Arkansan to the U.S. presidency. Barth has published works on American governors, the politics of the South, and race and gender politics in such journals as *Political Psychology*, *Polity*, *Women and Politics*, *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*, and *Politics and Policy*. He resides in Little Rock.

Sunday, April 17 3:00-3:50 P.M.

WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

MARCK L. BEGGS

Poet Marck L. Beggs can be found watching the weeds proliferate in his garden as he daydreams of fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, and squash. His collections of poetry include *LIBIDO CAFÉ* (Salmon Poetry) and *GODWORM*. He teaches writing and literature at Henderson State University, where he also serves as Dean of the Graduate School. Beggs is the editor of *Arkansas Literary Forum* (www.hsu.edu/alf).

Sunday, April 17 1:00-1:50 P.M.

WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

CAROL BERKIN

A professor of American and women's history in New York City, Carol Berkin is a native of Alabama, a winner of the Bancroft Prize, a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, and a regular commentator on PBS and History Channel documentaries.

Berkin's latest book is *REVOLUTIONARY MOTHERS: Women in the Struggle for America's Independence* (Knopf), which chronicles women's experience of the American Revolution—among them Benjamin Franklin's daughter, who leveraged her social contacts to raise over \$300,000 for the patriot cause, and North Carolina housewives who boycotted British goods. A recent rave review in the *Los Angeles Times* called *REVOLUTIONARY MOTHERS* a "lively book [that] reclaims a vital part of our political legacy.... Using a novelist's eye for detail, plot and character, Berkin vividly recounts Colonial women's struggles for independence—for their nation and, sometimes, for themselves." The *New York Times Book Review* described Berkin's work as "that rarest of achievements—civic education that manages to entertain."

Sunday, April 17 2:00-2:50 P.M.

DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

BUZZ BISSINGER

Buzz Bissinger is the author of the classic *FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS* (made into a hit movie starring Billy Bob Thornton), which Tracy Kidder described as "an engrossing story of a high school football season.... Exciting, funny, and, above all, horrifying." According to the *New York Times Book Review*, "*Friday Night Lights* offers a biting indictment of the sports craziness that grips most of American society, while at the same time providing a moving evocation of its powerful allure." Formerly a reporter for the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, he has won the Pulitzer Prize and the Livingston Award, among other honors, and is a contributing editor at *Vanity Fair*. In his just-published book, *3 NIGHTS IN AUGUST: Strategy, Heartbreak, and Joy Inside the Mind of a Manager* (Houghton Mifflin), Bissinger reveals the emotions and strategies involved in bigtime baseball, focusing on legend Tony La Russa—a 40-year veteran of the game—and his Cardinals during a crucial three-game series against arch-rival Chicago Cubs. *Library Journal* claims that this book will please "all fans of Bissinger's work and of pure baseball."

Sunday, April 17 4:00-5:30 P.M.

HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

MARLON BLACKWELL

Marlon Blackwell is an architect beloved by those who've encountered—or had the good fortune to live in—his structures. From the Keenan TowerHouse, a soaring treehouse for adults, to the Moore HoneyHouse, with its glass and steel evocations of honeycombs, to more whimsical proposals like the BullFrog House and the DragonFly House, Blackwell demonstrates a reverence for nature, acute sensitivity to his clients' desires and dreams, and a craftsman's attention to details and tectonic invention. "Marlon is a storyteller, a cigar-smoking George Burns of the Ozarks," writes architect David Buege, and he "works comfortably in this complex, disheveled culture.... His eyes [are] always open to apparent ironies and eccentricities."

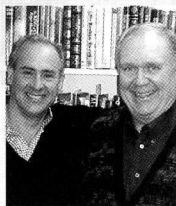
Like the late great Fay Jones, Blackwell is a professor at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. His work has received national and international recognition, including AIA design awards, and has been the subject of numerous articles in such publications as *Dwell*, *Southern Living*, and *Architectural Record*. In 1995, Blackwell was designated one of the nation's top 40 designers under 40 years old.

A new monograph, *AN ARCHITECTURE OF THE OZARKS: The Works of Marlon Blackwell* (Princeton Architectural Press), allows a close look at 12 of Blackwell's small-scale creations, revealing an architect determined to "poeticize the ordinary and everyday."

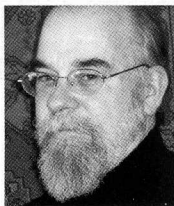
Saturday, April 16 2:00-2:50 P.M.

HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

Featured Authors



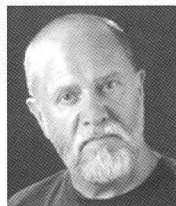
THE BOOK GUYS



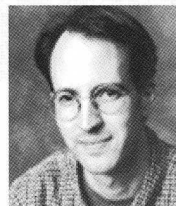
DENIS BOYLES



RICK BRAGG



SONNY BREWER



KEVIN BROCKMEIER



TAMMY CARTER
BRONSON



MAXINE BROWN

THE BOOK GUYS: ALLAN STYPECK and MIKE CUTHBERT

The Book Guys began in the 1980s, when Allan Stypeck paid his first visit to Mike Cuthbert's public radio talk show in Washington. The basic format then was what it is now: listeners with books in their possession call the program and Allan gives them an appraisal based on their description of the books. All evaluations are contingent on a visual inspection, of course, but most callers just want to know if they have something valuable in their library or not. From there the program launches into topics both closely associated with and far afield from the book in question. Sometimes the book was made into a movie and Mike and Allan discuss who starred in the film. Sometimes there are other books by the same author that are more interesting. Sometimes "The Boys" break into song. You never know what's going to happen. Their Arkansas Literary Festival appearance will feature Bret Lott as a guest.

Thursday, April 14 6:00 and 7:15 P.M.
DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

DENIS BOYLES

Nearly 12 years ago, in an effort to gather French public support for the Maastricht Treaty, President François Mitterrand famously said, "We are at war with America." At the time, America, along with the rest of the world, laughed but otherwise paid little attention. In his biting funny and insightful polemic, *VILE FRANCE: Fear, Duplicity, Cowardice and Cheese* (Encounter Books), Boyles explores French anti-Americanism, arguing that internal crises—a falling birthrate, an expanding Muslim minority, economic stagnation, a lessening of international prestige—have changed the personality of what was once "la belle France." This book will gratify Francophobes everywhere and cause even the most committed defender of the Jacques Chirac worldview to crack an occasional smile.

Denis Boyles is *National Review Online's* popular "Euro-Press" columnist and is also the author of *AFRICAN LIVES* and many other books. He has worked for *National Lampoon*, *Playboy*, and the *New York Times Magazine*. Boyles lives with his family in a small town outside Paris.

Saturday, April 16 1:00-1:50 P.M.
DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY
C-SPAN will film this event.

RICK BRAGG

A Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter formerly with the *New York Times*, Rick Bragg hit the bestseller charts with his first book, *ALL OVER BUT THE SHOUTIN'*, a memoir about breaking free from the poverty of his Alabama youth and finding success at the pinnacle of American journalism. The *New York Times Book Review* called the book a "sad, beautiful, funny and moving memoir...a report from the forgotten heart of 'white trash' America.... It is as if a descendant of the

hollow-eyed children from *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men* had stepped out of a photograph to tell his own story, to narrate an experience that even Agee could not penetrate because he was not himself 'trash.'"

Of his next book, *AVA'S MAN*, the *New York Times* said, "It is hard to think of a writer who reminds us more forcefully and wonderfully of what people and families are all about." Bragg's other books are *SOME-BODY TOLD ME: The Newspaper Stories of Rick Bragg* and *I AM A SOLDIER, TOO: The Jessica Lynch Story*.

Bragg brought his mother, Margaret, to New York for the Pulitzer Prize ceremony. She had never been to the city, never been on an airplane, never ridden an escalator, and hadn't bought a dress for herself in 18 years.

Saturday, April 16 2:00-2:50 P.M.
DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

SONNY BREWER

Sonny Brewer owns Over the Transom Bookstore in Fairhope, Alabama, and is board chairman of the nonprofit Fairhope Center for the Writing Arts. He has also worked as a short-order cook, service station attendant, pants folder, folk singer, used-car salesman, sailor, electronics technician, tugboat deckhand, traveling used-tire salesman, carpenter, building contractor, real estate salesman, purveyor of collectible automobiles, magazine editor, newspaper columnist, teacher, lecturer, and coffeehouse manager. He has not yet made a bid for political office nor preached a tent revival—though, regarding the latter, he has always hankered to do so, choosing not to, however, under threat of divorce. Brewer is the author of two novels, *THE POET OF TOLSTOY PARK* (Ballantine) and *LIKE LIGHT AROUND A BEND* (forthcoming from Ballantine). Pat Conroy says, "THE POET OF TOLSTOY PARK is one of those unique and wonderful books that sings a hymn of praise to the philosophical and spiritual part of daily life." Brewer is editor of the annual series *STORIES FROM THE BLUE MOON CAFÉ: Anthologies of Southern Writers* and is also an author scout who has helped several Southern writers land major book contracts.

Sunday, April 17 1:00-1:50 P.M.
HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

KEVIN BROCKMEIER

Kevin Brockmeier is the author of the novel *THE TRUTH ABOUT CELIA*, the story collection *THINGS THAT FALL FROM THE SKY*, and the children's novel *CITY OF NAMES*. He has two books forthcoming in 2006: a novel, *THE BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DEAD*, and a children's novel, *GROOVES: A Kind of Mystery*. His writing has appeared in many magazines and anthologies, including *The New Yorker*, *McSweeney's*, *The Oxford American*, *THE BEST AMERICAN SHORT STORIES*, *THE YEAR'S BEST FANTASY AND HORROR*, and *THE O. HENRY PRIZE STORIES*. His first name,

"Kevin," is from the Celtic and means either "kind and gentle" or "handsome at birth." His last name, "Brockmeier," is from the German and means "crumb-farmer." He lives in Little Rock.

Saturday, April 16 4:00-4:50 P.M.
WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

TAMMY CARTER BRONSON

Tammy Carter Bronson is the author and illustrator of three picture books: *TINY SNAIL*, *KALEIDONOTES*, and *POLLIWOG* (Bookaroots), a celebrated bilingual English-Spanish picture book. Tammy travels across the country teaching children about writing, illustration, and publishing. Her motivational programs have reached an estimated 5,000 children at 190 schools in 14 states.

1. **Saturday, April 16 11:00 A.M.**
3RD FLOOR, MAIN LIBRARY
2. **Saturday, April 16 12:00 NOON**
MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY
3. **Saturday, April 16 3:00 P.M.**
3RD FLOOR, MAIN LIBRARY
4. **Sunday, April 17 3:00 P.M.**
MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY

MAXINE BROWN

Country music pioneer Maxine Brown was a member—along with her siblings Bonnie and Jim Ed—of a popular musical trio, The Browns, in the 1950s and '60s. In her candid book, *LOOKING BACK TO SEE: A Memoir* (U. of Arkansas Press), Brown chronicles the sleazy side of show biz as well as the triumphs. Similar in spirit to Loretta Lynn's *Coal Miner's Daughter*, the book delves into her family's poverty-stricken past, beginning with a Depression-era childhood in rural Arkansas. From this humble background emerged a duo, Maxine and Jim Ed, whose 1954 song "Looking Back to See" became a top ten hit. After sister Bonnie joined them, other hits followed, including "I Take the Chance" and "I Heard the Bluebirds Sing." Early in their career, the Browns befriended young Elvis Presley, who toured with them and visited their house regularly. The group enjoyed a long relationship with RCA, and with Chet Atkins, and later joined the Grand Ole Opry cast. In 1959, their rendition of Edith Piaf's "The Three Bells" not only went to the top of the country charts but spent weeks as number one on the pop charts, leading to appearances on "The Ed Sullivan Show" and "American Bandstand."

Sunday, April 17 3:00-3:50 P.M.
DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

Featured Authors



WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY, JR.



ANDREA HOLLANDER BUDY



DAVID DARK



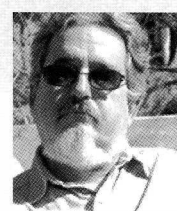
JOHN T. EDGE



BETH FINKE



CONNIE MAY FOWLER



T.R. HUMMER

WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY, JR.

William F. Buckley, Jr., who was born in New York City in 1925, founded the conservative journal *National Review*, where he served as chief editor for 35 years. Buckley's syndicated column "On the Right" has covered virtually every aspect of the public scene for four decades. His weekly television show *Firing Line*, which ran from 1966 to 1999, featured a lively exchange of opinion between Buckley and his diverse guests (including Germaine Greer and Margaret Thatcher, Gerald Ford and Allen Ginsberg, Groucho Marx and Noam Chomsky).

In 1976, Buckley published his first novel, *SAVING THE QUEEN*, which introduced his spy hero Blackford Oakes. Of his 50 books published to date, 17 are novels. His most recent books are *THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL* and *MILES GONE BY: A Literary Autobiography*, which reached the *New York Times* Bestseller List. Advance copies of his new novel, *LAST CALL FOR BLACKFORD OAKES* (Harcourt, May 2005), will be specially available at the Arkansas Literary Festival.

Buckley has served as a member of the Advisory Commission to the U.S. Information Agency and as a Public Member of the U.S. Delegation to the United Nations. In 1991, President George H.W. Bush awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He lives with his wife in Stamford, Connecticut.

Special Book Signing

Saturday, April 16 5:30 P.M.

THE BOOK SIGNING TENT

Guest Speaker at the "Totally Booked" Literary Gala
Saturday, April 16 6:00 P.M.

CLINTON PRESIDENTIAL CENTER

Sponsored by Tyson Foods

ANDREA HOLLANDER BUDY

It's not clear whether Andrea Hollander Budy's numerous literary successes—including a Pushcart Prize for prose memoir, the Nicholas Roerich Poetry Prize, and poetry fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Arkansas Arts Council—stem from any or all of the following: (1) she received her only traffic ticket for driving too slowly on the New Jersey Turnpike; (2) she was a high school cheerleader; and (3) for fifteen years (until 1997) she and her husband ran the Wildflower Bed & Breakfast in their hometown of Mountain View, Arkansas. What is clear is that Andrea Hollander Budy, whose award-winning poems have been praised by NEA director Dana Gioia for their "cumulative power that is nearly overwhelming," is the Writer-in-Residence at Lyon College and the author of five books: *THE OTHER LIFE* (Story Line Press), *HOUSE WITHOUT A DREAMER*, *WHAT THE OTHER EYE SEES*, *HAPPILY EVER AFTER*, and *LIVING ON THE CUP*.

Saturday, April 16 11:00-11:50

WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

LAURA PARKER CASTORO

Bestselling author Laura Parker Castoro has published 36 books in such genres as historical

and contemporary romance, Westerns, romantic suspense, paranormal, and mainstream fiction. Her newest release is *A NEW LU* (Red Dress Ink). Other recent books are: *NOTORIOUS*, *CROSSING THE LINE*, a novel about contemporary African-American and multicultural life, and *MISCHIEF*.

Parker has served as a board member of the Texas Writers Association, and was a founding member and two-time chairperson of the Greater Dallas Writers Association. She was recently elected president of the board of directors for The Writers' Colony at Dairy Hollow, in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Though born in Ft. Worth, Texas, Parker grew up in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, with five generations of Arkansans before her. She lives with her husband in Pine Bluff, where she sponsors "Poetluck," a quarterly writing workshop that is free and open to the public.

Saturday, April 16 4:00-4:50 P.M.

HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

DAVID DARK

In *THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO AMERICA*:

A Meditation on a God-Blessed, Christ-Haunted Idea (Westminster John Knox), David Dark explores pop culture—through music, literature, film, the media, and politics—as fodder for lively conversation about what it means to be Christian and American in the "weird moment" we live in. As we are increasingly polarized along political and religious lines, we claim more than ever to be one nation, under God. What does all this mean?

Drawing on America's rich cultural history—from Faulkner and Melville to Bob Dylan and R.E.M., from Dorothy Day to Will Campbell—Dark helps us understand how we might become better people.

David Dark teaches English at Christ Presbyterian Academy in Nashville and is the author of *EVERYDAY APOCALYPSE: The Sacred Revealed in Radiohead, The Simpsons, and Other Pop Culture Icons*, which uses the wisdom of popular culture to expose the "moral bankruptcy of our imaginations." He has written for *Books & Culture* and *Christianity Today* and is married to recording artist Sarah Masen.

Sunday, April 17 1:00-1:50 P.M.

DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

JOHN T. EDGE

John T. Edge is a longtime columnist for *The Oxford American*, whose work is featured in the 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004 editions of the BEST FOOD WRITING anthology. John T. is a 2004 finalist for the M.F.K. Fisher Distinguished Writing Award from the James Beard Foundation. Because John T. is "a veritable force of nature" when it comes to Southern food and culture, *The Oxford American* chose him to guest-edit its first-ever SOUTHERN FOOD ISSUE (on newsstands in April), which celebrates and investigates the past, present, and future of Southern grub.

John T.'s many books include the James Beard Award-nominated cookbook *A GRACIOUS PLENTY: Recipes and Recollections from the American South* (coauthored with Ellen Rolfes) and *THE SOUTHERN BELLY: The Ultimate Food Lovers Companion to the South*. He is general editor of the book series CORNBREAD NATION: *The Best of Southern Food Writing*, and foodways editor for the forthcoming edition of *THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SOUTHERN CULTURE*. He is currently at work on a series of four Putnam books on iconic American foods, including *FRIED CHICKEN: An American Story* and *APPLE PIE: An American Story*. Upcoming: *BURGERS & FRIES* and *DONUTS*.

Named one of the "Top 20 Southerners to Watch" by London's *Financial Times* in 2003, John T. holds a master's degree in Southern Studies from the University of Mississippi and is director of the Southern Foodways Alliance, based at the University of Mississippi. He lives in Oxford, Mississippi, with his son, Jess, and his wife, Blair Hobbs.

Lunch with John T. Edge: Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, The Oxford American's Southern Food Issue, and, of course, apple pie. Tickets are \$25.
Friday, April 15 DOORS OPEN at 1:00 P.M.
MILLIONAIRE ROOM, 7th & Broadway

BETH FINKE

National Public Radio commentator Beth Finke's memoir, *LONG TIME NO SEE* (U. of Illinois Press), was named one of the *Chicago Tribune's* favorite nonfiction books of 2003. Now in paperback, the memoir was chosen for The Book Sense 76 University Press Top Ten list.

Beth's writing career began when her essay about posing as a blind nude model for university art classes was reprinted in numerous alternative newspapers, leading to her current stint as a "Morning Edition" commentator. She has written for many publications, including the *Chicago Tribune*, *Business Law Today*, the *Chicago Tribune Sunday Magazine*, *Dog Fancy Magazine*, *Writer*, *The Bark*, and Seattle's *Evergreen Monthly*.

She currently teaches a writing class for senior citizens at the Chicago Cultural Center and lives in the Printers Row neighborhood of Chicago with her husband, Michael Knezovich, and her seeing-eye dog, Hani.

Saturday, April 16 11:00-11:50

DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

C-SPAN will film this event.

CONNIE MAY FOWLER

Connie May Fowler has been praised for her "genius of characterization" (*Boston Globe*), her "trusting and attuned ear" (*Miami Herald*), and her ability "to present the ponderous problems her characters face with a style and grace that takes your breath away" (*St. Petersburg Times*). Her novels include *SUGAR*

Featured Authors



TORAN ISOM



JOSHILYN JACKSON



BRET ANTHONY
JOHNSTON



GAIL LANGER
KARWOSKI



JANIS F. KEARNEY



BRIAN KINDER



CATHERINE LANDIS

CAGE, RIVER OF HIDDEN DREAMS, THE PROBLEM WITH MURMUR LEE (Doubleday), and BEFORE WOMEN HAD WINGS, which won the 1996 Southern Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction and was made into a popular "Oprah Winfrey Presents" TV movie. Her novel REMEMBERING BLUE won the Chautauqua South Award for Fiction. Fowler, who also wrote the haunting memoir WHEN KATIE WAKES, is founder of the Connie May Fowler Women with Wings Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to aiding women and children in need. She lives in Florida.

Saturday, April 16 2:00-2:50 P.M.
WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

T.R. HUMMER

T.R. Hummer is the author of nine books of poetry, including USELESS VIRTUES and WALT WHITMAN IN HELL. "Hummer's originality resides in a penchant for startling juxtapositions—not only at the level of language, but also in his conception of a poem's dramatic situation," said the *Gettysburg Review*. His new collection, THE INFINITY SESSIONS (Louisiana State U. Press), won the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa Poetry Award. Hummer, who previously edited *The Kenyon Review* and *New England Review*, is currently the editor of *The Georgia Review*. He lives in Athens, Georgia, and teaches creative writing at the University of Georgia.

- 1. Friday, April 15 5:00-5:50 P.M.**
DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY
- 2. Saturday, April 16 11:00-11:50**
WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

TORAN ISOM

Dr. Toran Isom is the creator and voice of "Once Upon a Book," a collection of audio essays, on KLRE/KUAR. She teaches in the department of rhetoric and writing at UALR. Her professional interests include children's literature, writing, social justice, and literacy issues. Previously, she wrote a column, "Growing Up Reading," for the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette* and served as Education Editor at KATV, Channel 7. She will discuss spirituality in children's literature at the festival.

Sunday, April 17 1:00 P.M.
3RD FLOOR, MAIN LIBRARY

JOSHILYN JACKSON

Joshilyn Jackson was born in the Deep South and raised by a tribe of wild fundamentalists who taught her to be virtuous and upright. After dropping out of college to pursue a career as an actor, she realized she liked writing plays rather than acting in them and went back to school, got a master's degree, and started teaching English.

Joshilyn Jackson's debut novel, GODS IN ALABAMA (Warner Books), can be summarized thusly: "When Arlene Fleet heads up north for college, she makes three promises to God: She will stop fornicating with

every boy who crossed her path; never tell another lie; never, ever go back to the 'fourth rack of hell,' her hometown of Possett, Alabama."

In addition to writing plays, Jackson has published fiction in literary magazines, including *TriQuarterly* and *Calyx*, and her short story "SixLips" appeared in *CHICKLIT II*, an anthology of up-and-coming female writers. She lives just outside of Atlanta with her husband, their two children, and a 23-pound, one-eyed Maine Coon cat named Franz Schubert. She is currently writing her next novel.

Sunday, April 17 1:00-1:50 P.M.
HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

BRET ANTHONY JOHNSTON

Bret Anthony Johnston's first book of stories, CORPUS CHRISTI, was recently published by Random House and praised by many, including Dorothy Allison, who said, "Bret Anthony Johnston is a name to put on your list—that list of writers you always read first. He knows how you can despair of people and go on treasuring them." His stories have appeared in *The Paris Review*, *NEW STORIES FROM THE SOUTH*, THE O. HENRY PRIZE STORIES, and elsewhere. Johnston has been a Teaching-Writing Fellow at the Iowa Writers Workshop, a fellow at the Sun Valley Writers' Conference, and, for over 15 years, a professional skateboarder. When he isn't skateboarding, Bret is completing his first novel.

- 1. Saturday, April 16 4:00-4:50 P.M.**
WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR
- 2. Sunday, April 17 3:00-3:50 P.M.**
HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

GAIL LANGER KARWOSKI

Gail Langer Karwoski lives near Athens, Georgia, and writes historical fiction for children. Her recent books include SEAMAN: *The Dog Who Explored the West with Lewis and Clark*, QUAKE: *Disaster in San Francisco, 1906* (Peachtree), and MIRACLE: *The True Story of the Wreck of the Sea Venture* (Darby Creek). She is coauthor of THE TREE THAT OWNS ITSELF: *And Other Adventure Tales from Out of the Past*. A former schoolteacher, Gail has won numerous awards for her writing, including the Sydney Taylor Award for her novel QUAKE.

- 1. Keynote speaker at the Children's Breakfast**
Saturday, April 16 9:00 A.M.
GREAT HALL, CLINTON PRESIDENTIAL CENTER
- 2. Saturday, April 16 1:30 P.M.**
3RD FLOOR, MAIN LIBRARY

JANIS F. KEARNEY

Janis F. Kearney was born in Gould, Arkansas. She graduated in 1977 from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville with a B.A. in Journalism. In 1981, she served as director of information for the migrant education program in Little Rock. In 1987, she purchased and became publisher of the award-winning

weekly *Arkansas State Press*, previously owned by renowned civil rights activist Daisy Bates. In 1992, she joined the Clinton-Gore Presidential Campaign as director of minority media outreach. From 1995-2001, she served as President Clinton's personal diarist, a job that entailed chronicling the Clinton Presidency on a day-to-day basis—the first time in history a president had made such an appointment. In July 2001, she and her husband, Bob Nash, moved to Chicago, where, as a fellow at Harvard's W.E.B. Du Bois Institute, Kearney began research for an oral biography of President Clinton. Her column, "Politics Is Life," is published nationwide twice-monthly. Her book, COTTON FIELD OF DREAMS: *A Memoir* (Writing Our World Press), was hailed by Bill Clinton as a "poignant picture of an Arkansas black family's struggles to live the American Dream."

Saturday, April 16 12:00 NOON-12:50 P.M.
DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY
C-SPAN will film this event.

BRIAN KINDER

Brian Kinder is a singer/songwriter who performs rollicking concerts for kids. He has gained wide acclaim for his unique musical performances, which feature guitar playing and whimsical songs designed to entertain children of all ages. His music is available on the following recordings: ONE MORE TIME, A KID LIKE YOU, SPECIAL DAYS, and BRIAN KINDER AGAIN.

- 1. Saturday, April 16 10:30 A.M.**
3RD FLOOR, MAIN LIBRARY
- 2. Saturday, April 16 3:30 P.M.**
3RD FLOOR, MAIN LIBRARY
- 3. Sunday, April 17 3:30 P.M.**
3RD FLOOR, MAIN LIBRARY

CATHERINE LANDIS

Catherine Landis was born in Birmingham, Alabama, but grew up outside of Chattanooga, Tennessee, on Signal Mountain, which resembles the setting in SOME DAYS THERE'S PIE, which Arthur Golden called "a standout first novel" that "achieves what every fiction writer craves: emotional delicacy, sophistication, a powerful sense of place." The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* described the novel's "quirky narrator" as a "refreshing new voice," who could be a distant relative of Huck Finn. After graduating from Davidson College, where she was the first female editor of the college newspaper, she worked for four years as a newspaper reporter in New Bern, North Carolina, then got married and moved to Lexington, Kentucky, where she worked for a public television station. About her second novel, HARVEST (St. Martin's Press), Robert Morgan said, "The voices and faces will haunt you long after you put the book down."

- 1. Saturday, April 16 3:00-3:50 P.M.**
HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM
- 2. Sunday, April 17 3:00-3:50 P.M.**
HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

Featured Authors



BRET LOTT



MAKUCHI



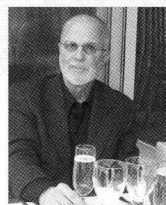
REGINALD MARTIN



WALTER MAYES



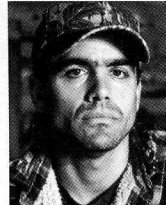
CARLA KILLOUGH
McCLAFFERTY



JAMES MORGAN



DIANE PAYNE



MICHAEL PERRY

BRET LOTT

Bret Lott's most recent book is *BEFORE WE GET STARTED: A Practical Memoir of the Writer's Life* (Ballantine), which candidly describes his long struggle to get published (his novel *Jewel* was eight years old and out of print when Oprah chose it for her book club—a twist of fate that transformed his modest existence). Lott also wrote the novels *A SONG I KNEW BY HEART*, *REED'S BEACH*, *A STRANGER'S HOUSE*, and *THE MAN WHO OWNED VERMONT*; the story collections *HOW TO GET HOME* and *A DREAM OF OLD LEAVES*; and the memoir *FATHERS, SONS, AND BROTHERS*. The *Los Angeles Times* called Lott "one of the most important and imaginative writers in America today." His stories and essays have appeared in numerous literary journals and magazines, among them *The Southern Review*, *The Yale Review*, *The Iowa Review*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and *Story*, and have been widely anthologized. He is the editor of *The Southern Review*, based in Baton Rouge.

1. Friday, April 15 5:00-5:50 P.M.

2. Saturday, April 16 2:00-2:50 P.M.

WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

MAKUCHI

Makuchi, also known as Juliana Nfah-Abbenyi, was born and raised in Cameroon. She was educated at the University of Yaounde in Cameroon and at McGill University in Montreal. She is a writer and literary critic, and a professor of English at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, where she has lived since 1995. Readers have called her collection of short stories, *YOUR MADNESS, NOT MINE: Stories of Cameroon* (Ohio U. Press), "heart-breaking and intense." "She wields her pen like a pioneer's axe in the forest," inviting "us to consider realities we would otherwise never know," observed critic and scholar Eloise Briere. She also wrote *GENDER IN AFRICAN WOMEN'S WRITING: Identity, Sexuality, and Difference* and has just finished a book on Cameroon folktales. Her fiction has appeared in *Callaloo*, *The Toronto Review of Contemporary Writing Abroad*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Thamyris*, *Worldview*, and scholarly publications. Her work has been reprinted in such anthologies as *THE ANCHOR BOOK OF MODERN AFRICAN STORIES* and other books.

Saturday, April 16 1:00-1:50 P.M.

WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

REGINALD MARTIN

Dr. Reginald Martin is a full professor of English at the University of Memphis and the coordinator of the African American literature concentration. His book *ISHMAEL REED AND THE NEW BLACK AESTHETIC CRITICS* was nominated for the Clarence L. Holte Award from the Schomburg Center in New York. His international anthology *EROTIQUE NOIRE* has gone through 35 printings and was a Book of the Month Club selection. His forthcoming *THE WRITING CIRCLE* (Macmillan) is already on back-order. He has also written *SOUTHERN SECRETS* (poetry) and *DYSFUNCTION JUNCTION* (short stories). Dr. Martin

is a former Ford Foundation and American Council on Education Fellow. His recent novel *EVERYBODY KNOWS WHAT TIME IT IS* was described by author Ernest Gaines as "a brilliant work set in the future south. Timeless." Ishmael Reed said, "Reginald Martin's brilliant fiction is comic, bawdy, and full of irony and absurdity." Forthcoming works include *TRANSITIONAL GENERATION: The First Integrated African Americans, 1968-1976* (Simon and Schuster) and *AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF NEW BLACK AESTHETIC CRITICISM* (Garland).

Saturday, April 16 1:00-1:50 P.M.

HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

WALTER MAYES

Walter Mayes, a.k.a. Walter the Giant Storyteller, is really six feet, seven-and-a-half inches tall. Walter, who has spent most of his adult life entertaining and enlightening young and adult audiences, strives to convey that books and stories are of vital importance to all children's lives. Walter travels to schools, libraries, bookstores, conferences, and seminars around the country, where he rallies support for "Love, Food, Shelter, Clothing...Books!" Walter is coauthor of the spirited and indispensable *VALERIE AND WALTER'S BEST BOOKS FOR CHILDREN: A Lively and Opinionated Guide*.

1. Saturday, April 16 12:00 NOON & 12:30 P.M.

3RD FLOOR, MAIN LIBRARY

2. Sunday, April 17 2:30 and 3:00 P.M.

3RD FLOOR, MAIN LIBRARY

CARLA KILLOUGH McCLAFFERTY

Carla Killough McClafferty is the author of *THE HEAD BONE'S CONNECTED TO THE NECK BONE: The Weird, Wacky, and Wonderful X-Ray* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux), which was chosen as a Junior Library Guild Selection and an Outstanding Science Trade Book for Children by the National Science Teacher's Association Children's Book Council, and was placed on the New York Public Library's list of books for teenagers. Her first book, *FORGIVING GOD: A Woman's Struggle to Understand When God Answers No*, was chosen as an alternate title for the Doubleday Crossings Book Club. Carla's upcoming book for young people, *SOMETHING OUT OF NOTHING: Marie Curie & Radium*, will be published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux in the fall of 2005.

Saturday, April 16 1:00 P.M.

3RD FLOOR, MAIN LIBRARY

MYKEL MITCHELL

In *WORD: For Everybody Who Thought Christianity Was for Suckas* (New American Library), Mykel Mitchell takes us on the personal journey that helped him reconcile his faith in Christ, not only with his intellect and instincts, but with his passion for all things hip-hop. "Mitchell's story is powerful and his voice genuine," said *Publisher's Weekly*. Mitchell is the cofounder of a local Christian fraternity and has held the position of deacon at the 16,000-member Faithful Central Bible Church in Los Angeles. In this humorous and candid take on church doctrine, he explains how

he came to cherish baggy jeans and sports jerseys right along with his platinum cross and tattered Bible.

A record-industry veteran, Mitchell was the executive producer of the Greg Mack show on radio station KDAY, cohosted a top-rated online hip-hop show, and is co-literary agent for artists 50 Cent and Omarion. He is a marketing consultant and a liaison between the hip-hop world and a number of major corporations. He and his wife, Sheeri, are the coauthors of *GREED!*

Sunday, April 17 2:00-2:50 P.M.

HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

JAMES MORGAN

James Morgan's books include: *STRONGER IN THE BROKEN PLACES: Nine Lessons for Turning Crisis into Triumph*, which he coauthored with former FEMA director James Lee Witt; *THE DISTANCE TO THE MOON*, which was chosen as a 1999 *New York Times* Notable Book; and *IF THESE WALLS HAD EARS: The Biography of a House*, which became a selection of the Quality Paperback Book Club. In 1994, Morgan collaborated with Virginia Kelley, President Clinton's mother, on her bestselling autobiography, *LEADING WITH MY HEART*, which also became a *New York Times* Notable Book and a Literary Guild selection. Morgan's articles and essays have appeared in such publications as *The New Yorker*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *Washington Post Magazine*, *Preservation*, *Men's Journal*, and *National Geographic Traveler*.

Just out this month, Morgan's newest book, *CHASING MATISSE: A Year in France Living My Dream* (Free Press), documents a once-in-a-lifetime journey. With his wife Beth as his muse and model, Morgan follows in the geographic footsteps of his hero, Henri Matisse, setting out to see and paint the world that Matisse saw and painted: "[I] kept finding the new, the creative, the life affirming within him.... And that's why I'm chasing Matisse—not to try to become the painter he was, but for at least one year in my life to boldly work at absorbing his affirming spirit."

The Arkansas Literary Festival will act as a homecoming for Morgan (who has lived in Little Rock for more than a decade).

1. Saturday, April 16 12:00 NOON-12:50 P.M.

HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

2. Sunday, April 17 3:00-3:50 P.M.

HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

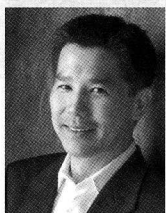
DIANE PAYNE

Diane Payne knows, but doesn't believe, that she's living in a dry town (Monticello, Arkansas), and keeps asking directions to the wine/beer aisle from the clerks at the local grocery store. She has had hundreds of stories, poems, and essays published, and recently wrote *BURNING TULIPS* (Red Hen Press), which Vivian Gornick declared "a remarkable memoir. As American as apple pie and incest, it is a vivid reminder of how startling is the actuality of childhood in this country. *Burning Tulips* is strong, moving, and direct."

Saturday, April 16 3:00-3:50 P.M.

HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

Featured Authors



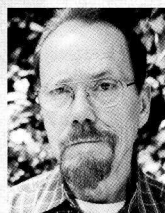
QUANG X. PHAM



LA'TONYA
RICHARDSON



JOHN S. RIGDEN



BILL SLOAN



LISA TUCKER



JAMES WHORTON, JR.



GINA WILKINS



TERRY WRIGHT

MICHAEL PERRY

Michael Perry was raised on a small dairy farm in northwestern Wisconsin, where he still lives. His work has appeared in numerous publications, including *Esquire*, the *New York Times Magazine*, *Salon*, *Utne Reader*, and *Cowboy Magazine*. A registered nurse by training, Perry has been an active emergency medical technician since 1988 and a volunteer firefighter since 1995. He currently serves on a volunteer basis with two rural rescue services and one fire department. He is the author of the bestselling memoir *POPULATION: 485: Meeting Your Neighbors One Siren at a Time* (HarperCollins), which *Esquire* proclaimed "quietly devastating...intimate and disarming and lovely." *Los Angeles Times* columnist Crispin Sartwell noted, "Michael Perry writes beautifully, but he also writes about something real.... I felt better about life, happier and more decent, after I read it than I did before." "A joy of a book," announced Michael Korda. He is also the author of a collection of essays, *OFF MAIN STREET: Barnstormers, Prophets & Gatemouth's Gator*. While his writing reflects a wide range of experience, Perry is proud to say that he can still run a pitchfork and milk a cow in the dark.

Saturday, April 16 3:00-3:50 P.M.
WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

QUANG X. PHAM

Quang X. Pham is the author of an eye-opening memoir, *A SENSE OF DUTY: My Father, My American Journey* (Ballantine). At the age of ten, he came to the United States during the fall of Saigon with his mother and sisters. Their first stop was the Fort Chaffee refugee camp in Arkansas. His father, a South Vietnamese Air Force pilot, was incarcerated for more than 12 years in communist re-education camps.

After graduating from UCLA and completing Marine Corps Officer Candidate School, Quang served as a helicopter pilot in Operation Desert Storm. A year later he flew U.N. personnel into Somalia. After serving in the Marines, he founded Lathian Systems, a pharmaceutical technology sales company. Quang lives in Orange County, California, with his wife, Shannon.

Saturday, April 16 3:00-3:50 P.M.
DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY
C-SPAN will film this event.

LA'TONYA RICHARDSON

Richardson is the author of two children's books, *MAMA'S GOT EYES IN THE BACK OF HER HEAD* (Backyard Enterprises) and *LIROCATCHAMELLA*. She is an instructor in the department of English, theatre and mass communication at the University of Arkansas in Pine Bluff, where she lives with her husband Anthony Sr. and their five children.

Sunday, April 17 2:00 P.M.
3RD FLOOR, MAIN LIBRARY

JOHN S. RIGDEN

John S. Rigden is currently a professor of physics at Washington University in St. Louis. He received a B.S. from Eastern Nazarene College, a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University, and was a postdoctoral fellow at

Harvard University. After holding several academic positions, Rigden joined the American Institute of Physics in 1987 as director of physics programs. One of Rigden's talents is making complex scientific principles accessible to the general public. The *New York Times* and the *Baltimore Sun*, among others, heaped praise on Rigden's ability to convey the "magic eloquence" of scientific practice in elegant, lucid prose. Rigden's latest book is *EINSTEIN 1905: The Standard of Greatness* (Harvard U. Press). His other books include *PHYSICS AND THE SOUND OF MUSIC*, *RABI: Scientist and Citizen*, and *HYDROGEN: The Essential Element*, which was named one of the 20 best science books of 2002 by *Discover Magazine*. He served as editor-in-chief for the four-volume *MACMILLAN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PHYSICS*.

Rigden is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a Fellow of the American Physical Society.

Saturday, April 16 11:00-11:50 A.M.
HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

BILL SLOAN

Bill Sloan is a former investigative reporter and features writer for the *Dallas Times Herald*, where he was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. He has written nearly a dozen books, the latest of which is *BROTHERHOOD OF HEROES: The Marines at Peleliu, 1944—The Bloodiest Battle of the Pacific War* (Simon & Schuster), called a "Band of Brothers for the Pacific." Drawing on extensive interviews with Marine veterans, Bill Sloan follows a small group of young Americans through a devastating campaign that took place on a Pacific island in 1944. Misled by faulty intelligence, the 9,000 Marine infantrymen who landed on Peleliu's beaches under enemy fire found themselves facing 11,000 Japanese troops who were embedded in an intricate network of caves and underground fortifications unrivaled in the history of warfare. Sloan weaves together the gut-wrenching experiences of the men who were there, producing an unflinching tableau of an important—and nearly forgotten—even in military history.

Sunday, April 17 4:00-4:50 P.M.
DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

LISA TUCKER

Lisa Tucker is the author of three novels: *THE SONG READER*, *SHOUT DOWN THE MOON*, and *WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MADE* (forthcoming from Simon & Schuster in 2006). Her novels have been translated into six languages and selected for Borders Original Voices, Barnes & Noble Reading Group program, Books-A-Million Fiction Book Club, the American Library Association Popular Paperbacks, the Book Sense 76 list, and the Book Sense 2004-2005 Reading Group Suggestions. Her short fiction has appeared in *Seventeen*, *Pages*, and the anthologies *COLD FEET* and *LIT RIFFS*. She grew up in Missouri, and lives with her husband and son in Northern New Mexico, where she writes and sings jazz and is (slowly) learning to play the drums.

Sunday, April 17 2:00-2:50 P.M.
WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

JAMES WHORTON, JR.

James Whorton, Jr., was raised in Florida and Mississippi and studied at the University of Southern Mississippi, the University of Wales, and Johns Hopkins University. He lives in Gray, Tennessee, with his wife and their daughter. With his critically acclaimed first novel, *APPROXIMATELY HEAVEN*, Whorton introduced readers to his droll and poignant brand of humor. Whorton's new novel, *FRANKLAND* (Free Press), is a wry and ribald tale in the rich tradition of John Kennedy Toole and Walker Percy. Featuring an oddball hero with book smarts but few social skills, the book captures the down-home wisdom that can often be found in some small Southern towns. *Southern Living* raved, "This second novel... resembles a glass jug of a strong mountain concoction, with kicking flavor and pieces of fermented muscadine resting at the bottom.... Read this tale and you'll meet a Southern storyteller who will make you feel as if you've oiled your imagination with a long swig of some mighty fine stuff."

1. Saturday, April 16 4:00-4:50 P.M.
WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR
2. Sunday, April 17 2:00-2:50 P.M.
WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

GINA WILKINS

A lifelong resident of central Arkansas, Gina Wilkins sold her first book to Harlequin in 1987 and has been writing full-time ever since. She has published more than 70 books with Harlequin and Silhouette Books, the most recent of which is *THE SECRET HEIR* (Silhouette). Her novels are sold in at least a hundred countries and have been translated into 20 languages. She has appeared on the Waldenbooks, B. Dalton, and *USA Today* bestseller lists. Wilkins's numerous awards include the Maggie Award for Excellence, sponsored by Georgia Romance Writers, which she has received four times. Last year, she was nominated for a Lifetime Achievement Award by *Romantic Times*.

Wilkins credits her successful career in Romance to her long, happy marriage and her three "extraordinary" children.

Saturday, April 16 4:00-4:50 P.M.
HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

TERRY WRIGHT

UCA-based poet Terry Wright is the author of *WHAT THE BLACK BOX SAID* and four chapbooks of poetry. A new chapbook, *FUGUE EPISODES*, will be published in 2005 by Wunderkammer Press. His writing has appeared in many magazines, including *Potion*, *Rolling Stone*, *Sequoia*, *Slipstream*, *Urbanus*, and others. His digital art has been featured in the Focus Gallery, the Museum of Computer Art (MOCA), and the Museum of Digital Art. In 2002, MOCA named his web site, "Rooms with a View," a "distinguished art site." At the end of the day, Terry believes his sunset can beat up yours.

Sunday, April 17 1:00-1:50 P.M.
WILLY D'S DUELING PIANO BAR

LITERACY COUNCILS

Aux Arc Literacy Council
Bradley County Literacy Council
Carroll County Literacy Council
Center for English Language Education
Community Literacy Council, Inc.
Conway County Literacy Council
Crawford County Volunteers for Literacy
Cross County Literacy Council
Dallas County Literacy Council, Inc.
Dogwood Literacy Council, Inc.
Drew County Literacy Council
Dumas Literacy Council
Faulkner County Literacy Council
Literacy Action of Central Arkansas, Inc.
Literacy Council of Arkansas County
Literacy Council of Benton County
Literacy Council of Bowie & Miller Counties, Inc.
Literacy Council of Crittenden County
Literacy Council of Garland County, Inc.
Literacy Council of Grant County
Literacy Council of Hot Spring County, Inc.
Literacy Council of Jefferson County
Literacy Council of Lawrence County
Literacy Council of Lonoke County
Literacy Council of Monroe County
Literacy Council of North Central Arkansas
Literacy Council of Ouachita-Calhoun Counties
Literacy Council of St. Francis County
Literacy Council of Union County, Inc.
Literacy Council of Western Arkansas
Literacy Council of White County
Literacy League Serving Craighead & Poinsett Counties
Little Red Literacy Council
Magnolia-Columbia County Literacy Council
Marion County Literacy Council
Mississippi County Literacy Council, Inc.
Ozark Literacy Council, Inc.
Polk County Literacy Council, Inc.
Pope County Literacy Council, Inc.
Sevier County Literacy Council
Sharp County Literacy Council, Inc.
SWADC: Learning Centers
The Learning Center, Inc. of North Little Rock
Twin Lakes Literacy Council
Yell County Literacy Council
Van Buren County Literacy Council, Inc.

ARKANSAS LITERARY FESTIVAL STEERING COMMITTEE

HONORARY CHAIR

Lt. Governor Winthrop Rockefeller

CHAIR

Warwick Sabin

ALC FESTIVAL COORDINATOR

Katie McManners

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Jeanne Harvey & Kathleen Pate, Co-Chairs
Stephanie Vanderslice
Lamar Johnson

CONCESSIONS

Barbara Hanley, Chair
Marti Hampton

ENTERTAINMENT

Jean Block, Chair
Jewel Bennett

EXHIBITS COMMITTEE

Zhila Shariat, Chair
Andrea Braley
Mark Clayton
Kim Goh
Melody Long
Alberta Martin
Grayson Smith
Cindy Westcott
Elizabeth Westcott

LITERARY QUIZ SHOW M.C.

Bill Jones

LOGISTICS

Philip Less, Chair
Zhila Shariat, Exhibits
Janice Hanlon, Signage

PUBLICITY & PROMOTION

Nancy Ferrara & Danny Koonce, Co-Chairs
Kyle Proctor
Ashley Wimberley
Julie Crouch
Wade McCune
Ross Cranford
Melissa Privitt
The Oxford American

SPECIAL EVENTS

Dr. Chad Rodgers & Lila Niswanger, Co-Chairs
Sandy Schwartz, Gala Silent Auction
Kathleen Pate & Lamar Johnson, Children's Breakfast
David Koon, Pub or Perish
Paige Burry
Sarah Razer

SPONSORSHIPS

Warwick Sabin, Chair

TALENT COORDINATION

Marc Smirnoff, Chair
Marck Beggs
Kevin Brockmeier
Jan Emberton
Carol Ann Fitzgerald
Janie Ginocchio
Danny Koonce
Mary Gay Shipley

FESTIVAL GUIDES

Gina Kokes, Chair
Vicki Bennett
Luanne Blaylock
Nicole Boddington
Steve Brawner
JoEllen Croft
Ansel Elkins
Jan Emberton
Lee Hartz
Ellen Howe
Kevin Tankersley
Shell Teague
Sandra Tyler
Steve Whisnant

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

Kathy Gattinger, Chair
Olivia Cary, Bank of Record

ALC BOARD

Sandy Schwartz, Little Rock, **President**
Barbara Hanley, Little Rock, **Vice-President**
Melissa Beck, Hope, **Secretary**
Slocum Pickell, Little Rock, **Treasurer**
Steve Brawner, Bryant
Jean Block, Conway
Philip Less, Little Rock
Lila Niswanger, Little Rock
Dr. Chad Rodgers, Little Rock
Warwick Sabin, Little Rock
Mark Shelton, Little Rock
Keith Vire, Bentonville
Kriss Abercrombie, Hope, Literacy Council
Advisory Committee Representative

ALC BOARD OF DIRECTORS' COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Kriss Abercrombie, Hope, **Chair**
Robbye Magee, Texarkana, **Vice-Chair**
Jim Allen, Fayetteville, **Secretary**
Ashli Fortune, Stuttgart
Denise Hester, Blytheville
Margaret Jarrett, Monticello
Nell Lawrence, Forrest City
Pat Mize, Conway
Stella Sample, Clinton
Marsha Taylor, Little Rock, Adult Learning
Resource Center Representative

ALC STAFF

Marie Clinton Bruno, **Executive Director**
Katherine Eisenhower McManners, **Development Director**
Linda Bunda, **Administrative Assistant**
Hana Mariah Hatta, **Publicity**
Lana Chaffin, **Support**

~
PARTICIPATING
RIVER MARKET
RESTAURANTS
~



BOSCOS
BREW PUB

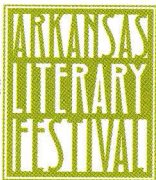
~
Lord Byron's
Brautigan Brown Beer
~

500 President Clinton Ave.
907-1881



BOULEVARD
BREAD

~
120 S. Commerce St.
244-2455

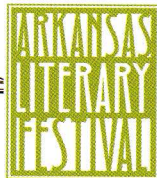


CAPRICCIO
GRILL

ITALIAN STEAKHOUSE

~
Melville's Marinated
Tuna with a Thai Buckwheat
Noodle Salad
~

3 Statehouse Plaza
906-4000
In the Peabody Little Rock



FLYING FISH

~
Hemingway Catfish
Filet Platter
~

\$8.99

511 President Clinton Ave.
375-3474



FLYING
SAUCER

~
Kinky Friedman's Fellini Salad
~

\$7.49

323 President Clinton Ave.
372-7468



STICKY
FINGERZ

~
Dr. Seuss's Sticky
Chicken Fingerz
~

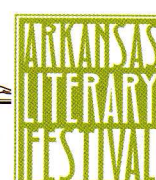
107 S. Commerce St.
372-7707



UNDERGROUND
PUB

~
F. Scott Fitzgerald
Fish & Chips
~

500 President Clinton Ave.
707-2537



WILLY D'S
RESTAURANT &
DUELING PIANO BAR

~
Chaucer Cheese Dip
~

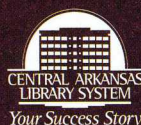
322 President Clinton Ave.
244-9550

2005 Festival Sponsors

FESTIVAL UNDERWRITER

WAL★MART®

EMPOWERMENT LEVEL



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR AND
LISENNE ROCKEFELLER

ARKANSAS BUSINESS  PUBLISHING GROUP



STONE WARD
always on

ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL



PROMOTIONAL SPONSOR



KNOWLEDGE LEVEL:

Southwest Airlines
William F. Laman
Public Library
The Oxford American

OPPORTUNITY LEVEL:

Arkansas Committee on
Foreign Relations
Bosco's
Comfort Inn & Suites @
Clinton Library
Holiday Inn Presidential
Conference Center
Historic Arkansas Museum
Munro Foundation
Peachtree Catering
Chadwick T. Rodgers, M.D.
Say It Loud!

FRIENDS OF THE FESTIVAL:

Alda's Forever
Ann Roscopf Allen
Arkansas Literacy Alliance
for Children with Visual
Impairments
Susie Boyett
Cary Cox
Clear Mountain
Spring Water

J&M Foods
Jo McDougall
Paula Morell
New Belgium Beer
Poppy Patch
Mike & Susan Schmitz
Baxter Sharp
David Stricklin
Treetop Publishing—
Bare Books
Peggy Vining
Mary Waters
Haynes and Gladys Whitney

FESTIVAL PARTNERS

Arkansas State Library
City Year Little Rock
The Downtown Partnership
Little Rock Convention and
Visitors Bureau
MidSouth Independent
Booksellers Association,
Arkansas Members:
Enterprise Books in
DeWitt
That Bookstore in
Blytheville
Tyler & Tyler
Wordsworth
The River Market

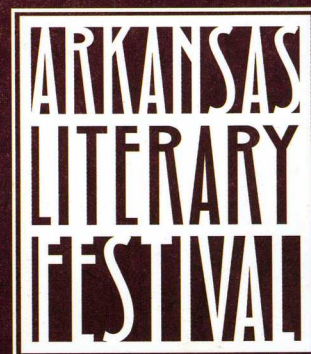
Media Sponsors



ArkansasTimes



KARN NEWSRADIO



April 21-23, 2006