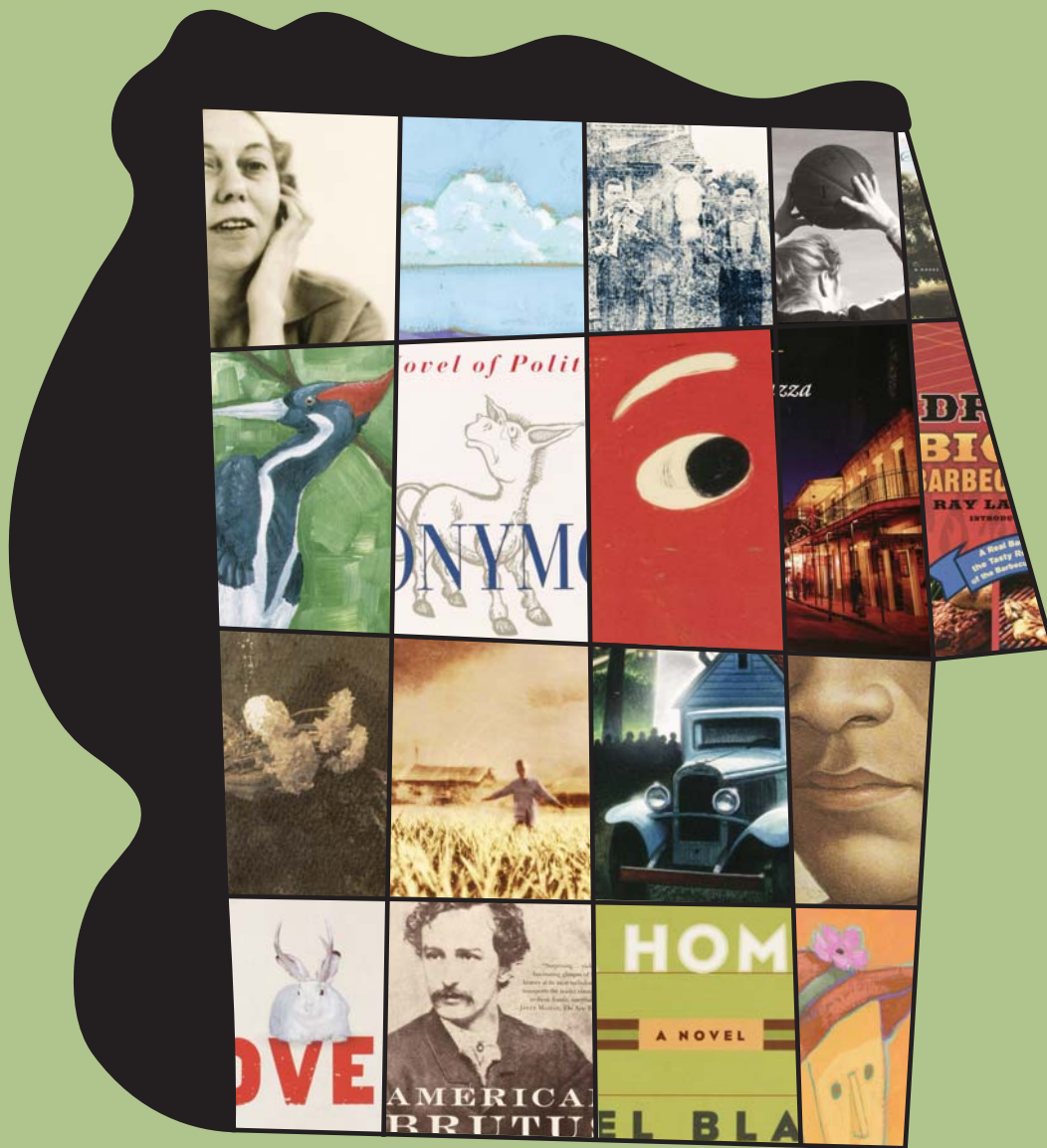


ARKANSAS LITERARY FESTIVAL



ARKANSAS LITERARY FESTIVAL

April 21-23, 2006 | Little Rock River Market District

Festival Underwriter

WAL★MART®



Hosted by

**Arkansas
Literacy
Councils, Inc.**

Winner of Arkansas Business'®
2005 Nonprofit of the Year Award





LETTER FROM THE HONORARY CHAIRMAN OF THE 2006 ARKANSAS LITERARY FESTIVAL

April 21, 2006

Dear Fellow Readers:

Each night at my house, all televisions and music players are turned off, the house gets quiet, and everyone settles down for reading time. There is nothing I enjoy more than sharing a storybook with my children during these special times. I am so thankful that my parents, grandparents, and teachers gave me the gift of reading. Sadly, however, some families don't have reading time because the adults in the house can't read.

Arkansas Literacy Councils, Inc., is working to change that. Volunteers help thousands of adults become readers each year, sharing not only the gift of reading but also the gift of hope. New readers have a chance at meaningful employment. They can understand a prescription and balance a checkbook. Newfound confidence replaces the embarrassment and low self-worth that eroded their ability to improve their lives. Best of all, their children have the opportunity to snuggle next to them with a storybook and to become readers as well.

So why do some of those same volunteers and others donate additional time to host the Arkansas Literary Festival? Because it's not enough just to teach nonreaders to recognize letters and words. We must empower them to love reading so that they will embrace it as one of life's joys rather than tolerate it as one of life's necessities. We must demonstrate that books are a bountiful buffet and not spoonfuls of medicine. That is what the Arkansas Literary Festival—a celebration of literacy, language, and the written word—is all about.

I hope you have a wonderful time. Enjoy the food, participate in the discussions, and meet as many authors as you can. And when you tuck yourself into bed tonight, take a book with you. Celebrate the written word—and your own reading time.

Sincerely yours,
Win Rockefeller
Lieutenant Governor, State of Arkansas

CHECK OUT THESE SPECIAL EVENTS

PRE-FESTIVAL EVENTS

Thursday, April 20, 2006

National Public Radio's "The Book Guys"

6:00 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. Darragh Center, Main Library

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 for two live shows for future broadcast. Audience members are encouraged to bring in books for appraisals.



Friday, April 21, 2006

Lunch with "Dr. BBQ"!

11:30 a.m. East Pavilion, River Market

Sponsored by Tyson Foods, Inc.

While you feast on Little Rock's delicious Whole Hog barbecue at the enticing outdoor East Pavilion in the River Market, "Dr. BBQ," aka Ray Lampe, discloses his award-winning tips and tricks on how to prepare the world's choicest barbecue. This is an "only in Little Rock" event (no New York book festival would be this down-home!) and a perfect way to kick off a festive weekend of literature and fun.



CHILDREN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, April 22, 2006

Children's Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Clinton Presidential Center Great Hall

Sponsored by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum, The Clinton Foundation, and Café 42

Media Sponsor: *Little Rock Family* magazine

"Reading in Arkansas: It's a Natural!" In celebration of Earth Day, this year's annual breakfast has an environmental theme. Miss Arkansas 2005, Eudora Mosby, opens the program with special greetings, followed by presentations of two books:

A PLACE FOR BUTTERFLIES by author Melissa Stewart (sponsored by the William F. Laman Library, North Little Rock) and illustrator Higgins Bond and BIG WOODS BIRD: AN IVORY-BILL STORY by local author Terri Roberts Luneau and illustrator Trevor Bennett. Children will listen to stories, learn more about how books are written and illustrated, and enjoy a delicious breakfast. Each child in attendance receives a goody bag containing passes for a return visit to the library and other fun items.



LITTlerockfamily

AFTER-HOURS EVENTS

Friday, April 21, 2006

"Chapter and Verse": Soirée with the Authors

6:00 p.m. Junior League of Little Rock (formerly the Woman's City Club)

Sponsored in part by Nestlé and *Soirée* magazine

Rub elbows with festival authors, enjoy plentiful hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, and bid on literary treasures in the silent auction. Books are available on site for purchase and we'll provide a special Festival pen so you can get your books signed by the authors! Entertainment provided by the Boondogs.



LITTLE ROCK
soirée

Saturday, April 22, 2006

"A Novel Affair": Exclusive Martini Reception

6:00 p.m. River Market ArtSpace

A swank martini party with authors and guests prior to Pub or Perish.

Enjoy unique food and martinis in one of Little Rock's best art galleries.

This is an intimate cocktail party with donors, authors, and a limited number of ticketed guests.



"Pub or Perish": A Reading on the Hoof

7:00 p.m. Mallard's Bar, The Peabody Little Rock

Sponsored by the *Arkansas Times*

Readings by special guest Festival authors plus local authors Philip Martin (*Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*) and Joy Ritchey, comedic essayist known for her "Girl Arkansas/Arkansas Media" blog, and MANY others.

ArkansasTimes

ENTERTAINMENT STAGE

Saturday, April 22, 2006

11:00 a.m.	Boondogs (Roots/Pop)
12:00 p.m.	Boondogs (Roots/Pop)
1:00 p.m.	Tim Anthony Trio (Reggae/Soul)
2:00 p.m.	Out of the Blue (Bluegrass)
3:00 p.m.	Solid Rock (Southern Rock)
4:00 p.m.	Crisis (Classic Rock)

Sunday, April 23, 2006

12:00 p.m.	Delya Chandler (Neo-Soul/Inspirational)
1:00 p.m.	Rena Wren (Folk-Rock)
2:00 p.m.	Rodney Block Project (Smooth Jazz)
3:00 p.m.	Bethany Devine (Inspirational/Gospel/Soul)

EVENTS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FESTIVAL

MOVIES IN THE PARK

Wednesday, April 19, 2006

Sundown, Riverfront Amphitheatre

The “Movies in the Park” outdoor movie series presents *About a Boy*. Come early and bring a picnic dinner!

LITERACY AWARDS AT THE CAPITOL

Celebrate Literacy Month 2006

Thursday, April 20, 2006

1:30 p.m. State Capitol Rotunda

This is the 15th annual Celebrate Literacy Month event, which honors Arkansans who both give and receive services in the quest for literacy and lifelong learning. Awards will be presented by Arkansas Literacy Councils, Inc., the Arkansas Reading Association, and the Adult Education Section of the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education. The Lawyers for Literacy Committee of the Arkansas Bar Association also presents its annual “Student and Tutor of the Year” awards honoring an adult literacy student and a volunteer literacy tutor. The ceremony ends with a reading of a book by the Student of the Year.

THE GREAT GATSBY CELEBRITY READ-THROUGH

Friday, April 21, 2006

9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Cox Creative Center, 1st floor

Presented in partnership with the Arkansas Center for the Book

Grab a cup of hot joe from Boulevard Bakery and make yourself comfortable as Little Rock celebrities line up to read THE GREAT GATSBY in its entirety—one chapter per celebrity. Catch one chapter or listen to the whole book; whatever your schedule permits. THE GREAT GATSBY Celebrity Read-Through is one of many activities scheduled in April for THE BIG READ, a statewide reading initiative of the Arkansas Center for the Book at the Arkansas State Library in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and Arts Midwest.

JOE KLEIN AT THE POLITICAL ANIMALS CLUB

Friday, April 21, 2006

4:00 p.m. Clinton School of Public Service

Free but reservations are required, please call (501) 570-2200

Joe Klein, the political columnist for *Time* magazine who wrote the novel PRIMARY COLORS, addresses Little Rock’s political movers and shakers.

POETRY OUT LOUD: NATIONAL RECITATION CONTEST

Saturday, April 22, 2006

10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Semifinals and Finals,

William F. Laman Library, North Little Rock

4:00 p.m. Awards Ceremony,

Clinton Presidential Center Scholars Garden

Presented by the Arkansas Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation in partnership with the Arkansas Department of Education, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and the William F. Laman Library

Selected high school students from across Arkansas compete in the semifinal and final round of “Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest.” The winner advances to the national competition on May 16, 2006, in Washington, D.C., and receives a scholarship from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

YOUNG WRITERS AWARDS

Saturday, April 22, 2006

10:30 a.m. Choctaw Building, Clinton Presidential Center

Presented in partnership with the Central Arkansas Reading Association

Awards will be presented to young authors in kindergarten through sixth grade. The winners will recite their stories. Share the celebration with them!

LITERARY TAPAS

Saturday, April 22, 2006

2:00–4:00 p.m. Willy D’s Restaurant and Piano Bar

Tapas are small portions of foods, both hot and cold, served in bars, *bodegas*, and *tascas* to accompany a *copa of fino*—dry Spanish Sherry—or draught beer. Our literary tapas are 15-minute, back-to-back snippets of readings, presentations, and performances by six Latino authors: Richard Blanco, H.G. Carillo, Manuel Muñoz, Willie Perdomo, René Saldaña Jr., and Liliana Valenzuela.

A project of the Arkansas Center for the Book at the Arkansas State Library with funding from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

“A PRIZED EVENING”: THE PRESENTATION OF THE PORTER AND BOOKER-WORTHEN LITERARY PRIZES

Saturday, April 22, 2006

5:30 p.m. Darragh Center, Main Library

The Porter Fund Literary Prize is presented to an Arkansas writer who has accomplished a substantial and impressive body of work that merits enhanced recognition. The prize was established in memory of Ben Drew Kimpel, Ph.D., who asked that the prize be named for his mother, Gladys Crane Kimpel Porter. The Porter Fund is a nonprofit organization supporting Arkansas writers and poets.

2006 Porter Prize Winner: Donald Hays for THE DIXIE ASSOCIATION

The Booker-Worthen Literary Prize is awarded by the Central Arkansas Library System (CALS) to honor the memory of William Booker Worthen, grandson of the founder of the former Worthen Bank and Trust Company and 22-year member of the CALS Board of Trustees. The award for the best work of either fiction or nonfiction for adults or children is presented annually to an author living in the CALS service area.

2006 Booker-Worthen Prize Winner: Former Arkansas Governor Sid McMath for PROMISES KEPT: A MEMOIR

ADULT SESSIONS

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2006

4:00–5:00 p.m.

EDITORS TELL ALL: How magazines operate, how writers get noticed by editors, how to make your writing sparkle, etc. With ADRIENNE MILLER, SPEER MORGAN, and TOM WILLIAMS.

In order to devote herself full-time to writing, Adrienne Miller recently stepped down as literary editor of *Esquire* after nine years (but she still remembers everything!). Arkansas native Speer Morgan is the chief editor of *The Missouri Review*, one of the country's most respected journals. Tom Williams is editor of *Arkansas Review: A Journal of Delta Studies*. Moderated by Marc Smirnoff, editor, *The Oxford American*.

DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2006

5:30–6:30 p.m.

LITERARY QUIZ SHOW.

This Festival tradition pits three teams of talented writers in a battle of wit, literary trivia and the quickest hands to the buzzer. The format is like a 1970s game show, but with a playful literary twist. Check www.ArkansasLiteraryFestival.org for updates on contestants and prizes. You won't want to miss such high-voltage, quirky entertainment. Our emcee even wears a tux!

DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2006

10:00–11:00 a.m.

NONFICTION. WHY NEW ORLEANS MATTERS.

With TOM PIAZZA.

Such notables as Norman Mailer and Bob Dylan (to name just a few) have praised the writing of Tom Piazza, a novelist, music writer, and longtime resident of New Orleans. Piazza even won a Grammy for his contribution to Martin Scorsese's PBS documentary on the blues. Piazza's latest book, *WHY NEW ORLEANS MATTERS*, will make you think, and feel, differently and more deeply about a great American city.

DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

SCREENWRITING/MEMOIR.

With WILLIAM FROUG.

In his 40-year career, Emmy-winning William Froug wrote and/or produced many of the shows America grew up with, from *Playhouse 90* and *The Twilight Zone* to *Gilligan's Island*, *Bewitched*, and *Charlie's Angels*—and others. In his new book, *HOW I ESCAPED FROM GILLIGAN'S ISLAND and Other Misadventures of a Hollywood Writer-Producer*, Froug proves himself to be a "born storyteller," in the words of Roger Ebert. How often do you get to listen to a guy who can tell you stories about Jack Benny, Lucille Ball, Robert Blake, Gene Roddenberry, Aaron Spelling, and Sherwood Schwartz? Bonus: Froug is a Little Rock native!

HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

LIVE POETRY! POETRY FOR THE MASSES!

With BETH ANN FENNELLY and KATRINA VANDENBERG.

Beth Ann Fennelly used her M.F.A. degree in poetry from the University of Arkansas (UofA) as a springboard to literary success. Her poems have been anthologized in *Poets of the New Century*, *The*

Penguin Book of the Sonnet, *The Best American Poetry*, *The Pushcart Prize*, and others. Katrina Vandenberg, a visiting poetry professor at the UofA, and a graduate of the university's master of fine arts program, is the author of *ATLAS*, which was nominated for the 2004 Minnesota Book Award.

COX CREATIVE CENTER

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2006

11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

POLITICS.

With JOE KLEIN.

Writing *PRIMARY COLORS* under the pen name "Anonymous" is what made Joe Klein famous. But he's long been admired for his thoughtful, no-holds-barred writing (for the *Washington Post* and *The New Yorker*, among others, and now as *Time* magazine's chief political columnist). In his newest book, *POLITICS LOST: How American Democracy Was Trivialized by People Who Think You're Stupid*, Klein finds pollsters and spinsters to be at the root of our current political crisis. Show up early to get a seat. Moderated by Warwick Sabin, associate editor, *Arkansas Times*.

DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

AMERICAN HISTORY.

With Grif Stockley.

Daisy Bates (1914-1999) is renowned as the mentor of the Little Rock Nine, the first African-Americans to attend Central High School in Little Rock. But her importance as a historical figure has been overlooked by scholars of the civil rights movement. In *DAISY BATES: Civil Rights Crusader from Arkansas*, popular Little Rock author Grif Stockley chronicles her life and political advocacy before, during, and well after the Central High School crisis. An orphan from the Arkansas mill town of Huttig, Bates eventually rose to the zenith of Civil Rights action. In 1952, she was elected president of the NAACP in Arkansas and traveled the country speaking on political issues. During the 1960s, she worked as a field organizer for presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson to get out the black vote. Even after a series of strokes, she continued to orchestrate self-help and economic initiatives in Arkansas.

COX CREATIVE CENTER

BIOGRAPHY. THE LIVES OF JANE AUSTEN AND EUDORA WELTY.

With EMILY AUERBACH and SUZANNE MARRS.

Sure they were geniuses, but you don't think Austen and Welty were dainty and tame, do you? If so, come prepared to lose your illusions. Two new biographies—*SEARCHING FOR JANE AUSTEN* by Emily Auerbach and *EUDORA WELTY* by Suzanne Marrs—uncover surprising truths about two fabulous writers. Probing research, meticulous scholarship, and an ability to get beyond assumptions are the keys with which both Auerbach and Marrs dispel myths and bring their subjects to life.

HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2006
1:00–2:00 p.m.

RELIGION.
With GARRY WILLS.

In WHAT JESUS MEANT, Garry Wills, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of LINCOLN AT GETTYSBURG, urges us to question our understanding of Jesus, and to examine what Jesus actually said about how we should live our lives. This is a book that will challenge the assumptions of almost *everyone* who brings religion into politics. WHAT JESUS MEANT is not a scholarly book, but a devotional one. Written with intelligence and humility, Wills' book illuminates a much more complex, compelling, and controversial figure than the one we hear so much about in sound bites today.

DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

HISTORICAL SOUTHERN FICTION.
With TOM FRANKLIN and ROBERT HICKS.

UofA grad Tom Franklin's searing HELL AT THE BREECH is both a hard-edged thriller and a literary triumph. "Arguably the most extraordinary first novel to come out of the South since Charles Frazier's National Book Award-winning *Cold Mountain*," the *Orlando Sentinel* said. Robert Hicks is the author of THE WIDOW OF THE SOUTH, a *New York Times* bestseller. "Perhaps the best Civil War novel since ... *Cold Mountain*. ... [A] compelling, touching, powerful, and ultimately unforgettable story," said the *Providence Journal*. The bold *Cold Mountain* references attest to the authority and skill of both writers.

HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

WOMEN/SPORTS.
With MELISSA KING.

"More than a great sports book, Melissa King's SHE'S GOT NEXT is a great book, period—funny, wise, honest and smart ... a thoroughly unique memoir from a woman who plays the game of basketball for what it teaches her about herself and about others." That's what Glenn Stout, editor of *Best American Sports Writing*, said about the triumphant debut of Melissa King of Conway, Arkansas (and he should know!). Others were just as enthusiastic: SHE'S GOT NEXT made the recommended year-end reading lists of *USA Today*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and the *San Diego Union-Tribune*.

COX CREATIVE CENTER

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2006
2:30–3:30 p.m.

AMERICAN HISTORY.
With JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN.

From his effort in 1934 to hand President Franklin Roosevelt a petition calling for action in response to the Cordie Cheek lynching to his 1997 appointment by President Bill Clinton to head the President's Initiative on Race, and continuing to the present, Dr. John Hope Franklin has not only been studying history—he's been making it. His accomplishments are too numerous to list in this space—although we'll quickly mention that in addition to receiving honorary degrees at more than 100 colleges and universities, he has been awarded the Cleanth Brooks Medal from the Fellowship of Southern Writers, the Encyclopedia Britannica Gold Medal for the Dissemination of Knowledge, the Organization of American Historians' Award for Outstanding Achievement, and, in 1995, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

Dr. Franklin's visits to the Arkansas Literary Festival to discuss his seminal new autobiography, MIRROR TO AMERICA, will be one of the highlights of the year for Arkansans. Get a seat early.
DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

THE SECRETS OF WRITING NOVELS REVEALED.
With SPEER MORGAN and LISA TUCKER.

You'll be happy not only to hear the work of these two supremely gifted authors, but also to hear their insights about how and why they write. Arkansas native Speer Morgan, editor of the prestigious literary journal *The Missouri Review*, is the author of five superb and moving novels, including THE FRESHOUR CYLINDERS, which won the American Book Award. Lisa Tucker, originally from Missouri, is the author of three novels, including ONCE UPON A DAY, which *Publishers Weekly* calls "a haunting, gripping novel," that is "beautifully written and spellbinding." Moderated by Charles Morgan.

HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

MOTHERING.
With BETH ANN FENNELLY.

Award-winning poet Beth Ann Fennelly turns her creative powers to exploring what she calls the "endearing and exasperating" aspects of motherhood. She not only reveals how utterly liberating it is to care for a new life, but draws some startling connections between childbearing and writing. This is the kind of intelligent and spiritual book long wished for by mothers and readers of all ages.

COX CREATIVE CENTER

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2006
4:00–5:00 p.m.

AMERICAN HISTORY/JOHN WILKES BOOTH.
With MICHAEL W. KAUFFMAN.

In AMERICAN BRUTUS, Michael W. Kauffman, one of the foremost Lincoln assassination authorities, takes familiar history to a deeper level, offering an unprecedented, authoritative account of the Lincoln murder conspiracy. Working from a staggering array of archival sources and new research, Kauffman sheds light on the background and motives of John Wilkes Booth, the mechanics of Booth's plot to topple the Union government, and the trials and fates of the conspirators. Gerald Posner said, "By unmasking Booth's real motivation while meticulously stripping away a century of accumulated folklore, Kauffman unlocks the mystery of why Lincoln was killed." Moderated by Dr. David Alsobrook, director, Clinton Presidential Library.

DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

LITERATURE IS FUN!
With ADRIENNE MILLER and GEORGE SINGLETON.

THE COAST OF AKRON by Adrienne Miller and NOVEL by George Singleton are highly praised first novels featuring wacky characters, dysfunctional families, and weird reverberations of place (the Ohio heartland and Gruel, South Carolina). Not only that, but both authors are, in person, full of sparks: The abundant wit, imagination, and stylistic pyrotechnics of Miller, the former literary editor of *Esquire*, and of Singleton, the ever-unpredictable Southern fictionalist/humorist, are guaranteed to wake up even the folks snoozing in the back row. Moderated by Carol Ann Fitzgerald of *The Oxford American* magazine.

HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

SEXUALITY/WOMEN.

With ELIZABETH TOPP and DR. CAROL LIVOTI.

From teenage mood swings to menopausal hot flashes, *VAGINAS: An Owner's Manual*, takes both a straightforward and humorous approach to a natural subject most people are embarrassed to talk about. The authors are skilled at putting readers at ease with a difficult subject, so shy women and men—including husbands, boyfriends and dads—are welcome. The *Wall Street Journal*, *Glamour*, *Marie Claire*, and countless readers (including *Sex and the City* author Candace Bushnell) have raved about the book.

COX CREATIVE CENTER

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2006
1:15–2:15 p.m.

MUSIC/SPIRITUALITY. IS TRANSCENDENCE IN POP POSSIBLE?

With BILL FRISKICS-WARREN.

In *I'LL TAKE YOU THERE*, the accomplished music writer Bill Friskics-Warren (co-author of *HEARTACHES BY THE NUMBER: Country Music's 500 Greatest Singles*) examines the spirituality that informs so much of pop music. Whether talking about obvious candidates like Van Morrison, Marvin Gaye, and Moby or about the not-so-obvious likes of Madonna, P.J. Harvey, and Public Enemy, Friskics-Warren points to the spiritual restlessness—a hunger for transcendence—that can be heard in more pop music than most people suspect. A fascinating analysis by a frequent *No Depression* contributor and music editor of the *Nashville Scene*.

DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

SOUTHERN FICTION OF PLACE.

With DANIEL BLACK and RIVER JORDAN.

Two haunting novels explore the mysteries and secrets that lurk within small Southern communities. Daniel Black's novel *THEY TELL ME OF A HOME*, which is set in Arkansas (where the author grew up), "paints a vivid picture of [a] physical and emotional landscape," according to *Essence*. River Jordan's novel, *THE MESSENGER OF MAGNOLIA STREET*, set in Alabama, "creates an eerily sinister landscape in which the age-old struggle of Good versus Evil is played out within the subtle context of family, faith, and friendship," says *BookList*.

COX CREATIVE CENTER

ARKANSAS HISTORY.

With KENNETH BARNES and BILLY HIGGINS.

In *JOURNEY OF HOPE*, Kenneth Barnes explores the back-to-Africa movement that inspired many impoverished sharecroppers (most of whom lived in Arkansas) to move to Liberia in the late 1800s. His book won the Arkansas Historical Association's John G. Ragsdale Award and the Arkansas Library Association's Arkansiana Book Award. Billy Higgins' *A STRANGER AND A SOJOURNER* tells the story of Peter Caulder, who established a community of free-born African-Americans in northern Arkansas until an 1859 expulsion law forced the community to flee the state. Don Higginbotham described the book as "essential reading" and "one of the more intriguing stories I have ever read about the Antebellum South in all its complexity." Moderated by Dr. Tom DeBlack, Arkansas Tech University.

HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2006
2:30–3:30 p.m.

WAL-MART AND SOCIETY.

With CHARLES FISHMAN.

Wal-Mart is a global phenomenon and, as Charles Fishman writes in *THE WAL-MART EFFECT*, his *New York Times* bestseller, the "Wal-Mart effect" subtly or not so subtly "touches the lives of literally every American every day. Wal-Mart reshapes the economic life of the towns and cities where it opens stores; it also reshapes the economic life of the United States—a single company that steadily, silently, purposefully moves the largest economy in history. Wal-Mart has become the most powerful, most influential company in the world." *Business Week* gave *THE WAL-MART EFFECT* four stars and said it is "well-written and insightful...*THE WAL-MART EFFECT* is not an anti-Wal-Mart screed." The *San Francisco Chronicle* said it is "highly readable, incisive, precise, and even elegant."

DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

RELIGION.

With DEBORAH MATHIS.

Little Rock native Deborah Mathis is best-known for her book *YET A STRANGER: Why Black Americans Still Don't Feel at Home* and as a commentator who has appeared on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *Good Morning America*, *Frontline*, and other shows. But now she will be known for *WHAT GOD CAN DO*, a compelling and eloquent meditation chronicling the experiences of people whose lives have been touched by the divine. "Amen! I loved this book," said religious writer Terrie Williams. A special book that bears witness to how God works simple miracles—even for the least devout among us.

HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

DEBUT FICTION.

With KRISTA McGRUDER and DAYNE SHERMAN.

It's a good sign when Pulitzer Prize-winning authors heap praise on the first books of young writers: Author Frank McCourt says the short stories in *BEULAH LAND* by Krista McGruder (who lives half the time in Arkansas) make for "a hell of a good read," and Rick Bragg says Dayne Sherman, author of the novel *WELCOME TO THE FALLEN PARADISE*, "writes like I wish I could if I was still young enough to change."

COX CREATIVE CENTER

JOURNALISM/ETHICS/NEW ORLEANS.

The Arkansas Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists received a grant from its national organization for an event dealing with ethics in journalism. This panel discussion focuses on the topic as it relates to coverage of Hurricane Katrina. Participants include book authors and newspaper writers who had to make split-second decisions about how to get information, what to report, and how involved to get with their subjects in what was sometimes a life-or-death situation. Moderated by Warwick Sabin, associate editor, *Arkansas Times*.

CLARK ROOM AT THE RIVER MARKET

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2006
4:00–5:00 p.m.

GRAPHIC NOVELS/CARTOONING.
With NATE POWELL.

And now for something completely different. Young graphic novelist Nate Powell, who was born and raised in Little Rock, is the author of TINY GIANTS and IT DISAPPEARS, both published to acclaim by Soft Skull Press. His underground comic art features a bold, stark graphic style and storylines that recall the moody world of a David Lynch movie. One critic said, “With a wisdom belying his years, Powell explores, in meticulous black-and-white, those all-too-gray questions most people choose to ignore.” Readers of all ages will enjoy Powell, who will give a lively and very visual presentation.

HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM

BIOGRAPHY/HORSE RACING.
With JOE DRAPE.

Joe Drape, an award-winning reporter for the *New York Times*, traveled around the world to research his fascinating new biography on African-American jockey Jimmy Winkfield, who won two Kentucky Derbys (1901 and 1902) before turning 23. BLACK MAESTRO: *The Epic Life of an American Legend* describes Winkfield’s astounding odyssey, which took him from Kentucky, where he was born and where he briefly flourished (racism eventually chased him away), to Russia, France, and Poland. Winkfield’s life paralleled—and intersected with—some of the defining events of the early 20th century, including the Russian revolution, 1920s Paris, and the Nazi invasion of France. This almost mythic life will satisfy lovers of biography and horse racing.

COX CREATIVE CENTER

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2006
4:00–5:15 p.m.

CLASSIC ARKANSAS WRITING.
With KEVIN BROCKMEIER, JACK BUTLER, and DONALD HARINGTON.

An all-star revue of Natural State novels. Little Rock’s Kevin Brockmeier is the author of 2006’s hottest book to date: THE BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DEAD. *Slate* said, “Brockmeier has written a novel that gracefully captures modern-day anxieties about terrorism and futuristic decay.” Jack Butler’s LIVING IN LITTLE ROCK WITH MISS LITTLE ROCK was an instant classic (cult and otherwise) when it was released in 1993. (Clyde Edgerton said that MISS LITTLE ROCK took on “Robin Williams, James Joyce and Elmore Leonard and goes on beyond into something like you’ve never read.”) America’s coolest literary magazine, *The Believer*, recently outed Donald Harington as America’s greatest neglected novelist and said that readers will find it “hard to leave” his invented town of Stay More, Arkansas. For fiction fans, and Arkansas patriots, this historic session will be a tempting way to end the 2006 Arkansas Literary Festival.

DARRAGH CENTER, MAIN LIBRARY

CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULT
EVENTS AND SESSIONS

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2006

CRAFT AND WRITING ACTIVITIES

11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Volunteers from the Arkansas Reading Association will lead lively and creative craft and writing activities.

3rd Floor Main Library

SESSIONS

10:00–10:45 a.m.

“Page-turners for High School Students”

Dayne Sherman, Diane Les Becquets, and René Saldaña Jr.

Three spirited fiction writers offer tales that entertain and inspire young adults. Dayne Sherman, who spent three years in the ninth grade and dropped out of high school twice, explores family and home in his novel, WELCOME TO THE FALLEN PARADISE. Diane Les Becquets delves into the tumultuous emotions of a sixteen-year-old girl in her novel LOVE, CAJUN STYLE. René Saldaña Jr. shows how teenagers deal with challenges ranging from first dates to the chilling death of a classmate in his story collection, FINDING OUR WAY. Moderated by Jane Thompson, Center for the Book at the Arkansas State Library.

West Room, 1st floor Main Library

10:30–11:00 a.m.

Stacey Durham and Ima GoodEgg

Ima GoodEgg’s imagination has him spending the day driving a fire truck, putting out a house fire, saving a puppy, showing a kitten the way home, and returning home just before mom is awake and out of bed!

Fribourgh Room, 2nd Floor Main Library

10:30–11:30 a.m.

Faye Hanson

Youth Services Department

“Stories are gifts from the heart which spark the imagination and revive the memory. They give us a sense of who we are, as individuals and as a culture. They give us a sense of time and place.” Faye Hanson brings traditional, historical, and original stories to life for audiences of all ages.

Introduced by Lisa Donovan, Main Library

Youth Program Room, 3rd Floor Main Library

11:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Teen Writing Workshop

“First Thoughts: An Overview of Writing Poetry”

Facilitated by Angie Macri-Hanson, MFA University of Arkansas, and Sandy Longhorn, MFA University of Arkansas

With the guidance of instructors from Pulaski Technical College, participants will generate several poems of their own. No previous poetry experience necessary. Teens are welcome to attend multiple sessions.

East Room, 1st Floor Main Library

11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Create Book Tiles Craft Activity with CityYear Little Rock

Design a ceramic tile about a book that will become part of a large mural in downtown Little Rock. Presented in conjunction with National Youth Service Day.

Writer's Garden, Main Library

11:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Barbara Jones

Dressed as Mr. Tannen and armed with a suitcase of ties, Miss Barbara will read MR. TANNEN'S TIES and MR. TANNEN'S TIE TROUBLE. Help Mr. Tannen select the perfect ties for various occasions! Introduced by Miss Teen Promise, Keyera James.

Fribourgh Room, 2nd Floor Main Library

11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Professional Development Workshop

"Curriculum Connections with Historical Fiction"

Alexandria LaFaye

Explore how to integrate history into your curriculum through the use of primary texts, nonfiction, and historical fiction, including LaFaye's award-winning novel WORTH. This session touches on topics relevant to social studies standards (research methods and frontier life), language arts standards (theme, symbolism, figurative language), and math (historical look at economics). *Note: This is a preregistered session, but do drop in for last-minute openings.*

Board Room, 3rd Floor Main Library

12:45–2:00 p.m.

Teen Writing Workshop

"Fun with Form: How Poetic Form Can Be Freeing"

Facilitated by Antoinette Brim, MFA, Antioch University

With the guidance of instructors from Pulaski Technical College, participants generate several poems of their own. No previous poetry experience necessary. Teens are welcome to attend multiple sessions.

East Room, 1st Floor Main Library

1:00–1:45 p.m.

Sci(ence) and Sci-Fi/Fantasy for Grades 4-8

Carla Killough McClafferty and Darcy Pattison

Carla Killough McClafferty's SOMETHING OUT OF NOTHING: Marie Curie and Radium will allow kids to learn the fascinating story of Marie Curie, the poor Polish girl who grew up to change science forever through her study of radioactivity and the discovery of the elements radium and polonium. Illustrated with historical photographs, Darcy Pattison's thrilling WAYFINDER centers on Winchal Eldras, one of the gifted few with the ability to locate anything. That talent, also called "Finding," is very valuable in a city that sits dangerously close to the mysterious, unexplored chasm known as the Rift. When the Rift claims his little sister in a bizarre accident and a plague hits, Win must find a way to save everyone.

West Room, 1st Floor Main Library

1:00–1:30 p.m.

Valerie Lewis

Valerie Lewis takes young readers and adults alike on a lively, fun, whirlwind journey of books for kindergarteners through fifth-graders. If you're not sure what to read next, you will be after this session!

Fribourgh Room, 2nd Floor Main Library

1:00–1:30 p.m.

Walter "the Giant Storyteller" Mayes

Walter is really six-feet-seven-and-a-half-inches tall and author of the new book WALTER THE GIANT STORYTELLER'S GIANT BOOK OF GIANT STORIES. This presentation, for school-age children and their families, will reveal the "story behind the story" of Jack and the Beanstalk, Paul Bunyan, and several other famous giants from folklore and fairy tales.

Introduced by Mary Gay Shipley, That Bookstore in Blytheville Youth Program Room, 3rd Floor Main Library

1:00–2:00 p.m.

Professional Development Workshop

"Storytelling and Pathways to Literacy"

Lynn Rubright

St. Louis-based Lynn Rubright is a master storyteller, workshop leader, and more! Her graduate course, Storytelling Across the Curriculum, has been taught at Webster University, St. Louis, since 1971. Since 2005, Rubright has been developing an interdisciplinary curriculum for MAMA'S WINDOW (Lee and Low Books, 2005) with St. Louis public school children as part of her Storytelling and Literacy program for The Center of Creative Arts (COCA), St. Louis. *Note: This is a preregistered session, but do drop in for last-minute openings.*

Board Room, 3rd Floor Main Library

1:30–2:30 p.m.

Junior Ranger Reading Rally

With Park Rangers from Central High School National Historic Site

Become a Junior Ranger by participating in fun games and activities about the 1957 desegregation crisis. Receive an official Junior Ranger badge and a certificate, and have the chance to win a Park Ranger's hat! Presented in conjunction with Earth Day and National Park Week.

Writer's Garden, Main Library

2:00–2:30 p.m.

Janet Cathey, M.D.

Discover what Little Rock's very own Dr. Janet Cathey loves to read with her family and how she inspires others.

Introduced by Chad Rodgers, M.D.

Fribourgh Room, 2nd Floor Main Library

2:00–2:45 p.m.

Melissa Stewart and Higgins Bond

How does a caterpillar become a butterfly? Where do butterflies live? What do they eat? How can I help butterflies in my own neighborhood? A PLACE FOR BUTTERFLIES has answers to these questions and more fascinating facts. Presented in celebration of Earth Day.

Youth Program Room, 3rd Floor Main Library

2:15–3:30 p.m.
Teen Writing Workshop
“Blank Pages, Blocked Minds: How to Find the Poems Lurking Beneath the Surface”
Facilitated by Joey Cole, MFA, Louisiana State University
With the guidance of instructors from Pulaski Technical College, participants generate several poems of their own. No previous poetry experience necessary. Teens welcome to attend multiple sessions.
East Room, 1st floor Main Library

2:30–3:15 p.m. History and Mystery: For Grades 4–8
Alexandria LaFaye and Kevin Brockmeier
Alexandria LaFaye’s WORTH focuses on Nathaniel Peals, whose father adopts a child after Nathaniel is crippled in an accident. Will the new boy become the son Nathaniel feels he can’t be? In Kevin Brockmeier’s GROOVES: *A Kind of Mystery*, Dwayne Ruggles is just a regular kid, living in a regular town—or so he thinks. The ridges in his Thigpen Brand Blue Jeans and the grooves in Thigpen Brand Potato Chips are encoded with this secret message: Dwayne must stop Thigpen from stealing the lights in everyone’s eyes. But what does that even mean?
West Room, 1st Floor Main Library

2:30–3:30 p.m. Professional Development Workshop
“Best Books for Children Birth to 14 Years”
Valerie Lewis and Walter Mayes
How can you choose the best books among the thousands that compete for your attention? The coauthors of the book VALERIE & WALTER’S BEST BOOKS FOR CHILDREN will guide a lively discussion of how you can do more than dog-paddle through the sea of choices—you’ll swim with confidence! Yo ho ho and a bottle of guaranteed snooze-free professional development! *Note: This is a preregistered session, but do drop in for last-minute openings.*
Board Room, 3rd Floor Main Library

3:00–3:30 p.m.
Darcy Pattison
Imogene Poplar, Private Eye, is on a hot case. Her friend Oliver K. Woodman is missing, and she’s tracking him across the glorious USA. From South Carolina to Alaska, there are clues and adventures in every city. But Imogene, like Oliver, is made of wood, so she needs help getting around. Read the letters. Follow the map. Then see if you can guess the elusive wooden man’s next move in SEARCHING FOR OLIVER K. WOODMAN, Darcy Pattison’s brilliant and engaging mystery book for kids.
Introduced by Carla Killough McClafferty
Youth Program Room, 3rd Floor Main Library

3:00–4:00 p.m.
Lynn Rubright
Storyteller Lynn Rubright will hold the whole family spellbound with her remarkable tales.
Fribourgh Room, 2nd Floor Main Library

3:00–4:00 p.m.
Beatrice’s Goat
A lively reading of the classic BEATRICE’S GOAT. Hear the story of how a small gift changed the life of a young girl. Presented by Heifer International’s “Read to Feed” Program.
Writer’s Garden, Main Library

4:00–5:00 p.m.
Brian Kinder and his wife, Miss Terri
Wrap up your day of Festival fun with local favorite Brian Kinder and Miss Terri. The toe-tapping tune “I Like Being a Kid” encourages self-esteem and creative movement, and the upbeat ballad “One More Time” promotes a love of literacy.
Introduced by Lisa Donovan, Main Library
Youth Program Room, 3rd Floor Main Library



Ready for Culinary Fare?

*Try a “Festival Featured Dish”
from one of our featured restaurants:*

Boulevard Bread Company

Hemingway Tuna Fish Sandwich
and other delicious menu items

120 S. Commerce St.

244-2455

In the Cox Creative Center

Capriccio Grill Italian Steakhouse

Mark Twain's Pan-Seared Pork Tenderloin

3 Statehouse Plaza

906-4000

In The Peabody Little Rock

Underground Pub

F. Scott Fitzgerald Fish & Chips

500 President Clinton Ave.

707-2537

In the Museum Center

Remember, we have great concessions available
at **Whole Hog Café** and **Yarnell's Ice Cream**
on the festival grounds.

A portion of the proceeds will benefit the cause of
adult literacy through Arkansas Literacy Councils, Inc.

Whole Hog Café
Yarnell's Ice Cream

Arkansas Literacy Councils, Inc. would like to thank Mangan Holcomb Partners for
designing the program and Transamerica Worksite Marketing for printing the program.

SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2006															SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2006				
	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	12:30	1:00	1:30	2:00	2:30	3:00	3:30	4:00	4:30		1:15	2:30	4:00	
Darragh Center	Why New Orleans Matters with Tom Piazza (10:00-11:00)			Politics with Joe Klein (11:30-12:30)			Religion with Garry Wills (1:00-2:00)			American History with John Hope Franklin (2:30-3:30)			American History/ John Wilkes Booth with Michael W. Kauffman (4:00-5:00)		Darragh Center	Music/Spirituality with Bill Friskics-Warren (1:15-2:15)	Wal-Mart and Society with Charles Fishman (2:30-3:30)	Classic Arkansas Writing with Kevin Brockmeier, Jack Butler & Donald Harington (4:00-5:15)	
Cox Creative Center	Live Poetry! with Beth Ann Fennelly & Katrina Vandenberg (10:00-11:00)			American History with Grif Stockley (11:30-12:30)			Women/Sports with Melissa King (1:00-2:00)			Mothering with Beth Ann Fennelly (2:30-3:30)			Sexuality/Women with Elizabeth Topp & Dr. Carol Livoti (4:00-5:00)		Cox Creative Center	Southern Fiction of Place with Daniel Black & River Jordan (1:15-2:15)	Debut Fiction with Krista McGruder & Dayne Sherman (2:30-3:30)	Biography/Horse Racing with Joe Drape (4:00-5:00)	
Historic Arkansas Museum Auditorium	Screenwriting/Memoir with William Froug (10:00-11:00)			Biography: Jane Austen/ Eudora Welty with Emily Auerbach & Suzanne Marrs (11:30-12:30)			Historical Southern Fiction with Tom Franklin & Robert Hicks (1:00-2:00)			The Secrets of Writing Novels Revealed with Speer Morgan & Lisa Tucker (2:30-3:30)			Literature Is Fun! with Adrienne Miller & George Singleton (4:00-5:00)		Historic Arkansas Museum Aud.	Arkansas History with Kenneth Barnes & Billy Higgins (1:15-2:15)	Religion with Deborah Mathis (2:30-3:30)	Graphic Novels/ Cartooning with Nate Powell (4:00-5:00)	
Willy D's									Literary Tapas with Richard Blanco, H.G. Carillo, Manuel Muñoz, Willie Perdomo, René Saldaña Jr., and Liliana Valenzuela (2:00-4:00)						River Market Clark Room		Journalism/Ethics with Warwick Sabin (2:30-3:30)		
Youth Services Program Room		Storytelling with Faye Hanson (10:30-11:30)					Giant Stories with Walter “the Giant Storyteller” (1:00-1:30)		A PLACE FOR BUTTERFLIES with Melissa Stewart & Higgins Bond (2:00-2:45)			SEARCHING FOR OLIVER K. WOODMAN with Darcy Pattison (3:00-3:30)		Music and Fun with Brian Kinder (4:00-5:00)					
East Meeting Room				First Thoughts: An Overview of Writing Poetry (11:15-12:30)			Fun with Form: How Poetic Form Can Be Freeing (12:45-2:00)			Blank Pages, Blocked Minds: How to Find the Poems Lurking Beneath the Surface (2:15-3:30)									
West Meeting Room	Page-turners for High School Students with Dayne Sherman, Diane Les Becquets, and René Saldaña Jr. (10:00-10:45)						Sci(ence) and Sci-Fi/Fantasy for Grades 4-8 with Carla Killough McClafferty & Darcy Pattison (1:00-1:45)				History and Mystery: for Grades 4-8 with Alexandria LaFaye & Kevin Brockmeier (2:30-3:15)								
Fribourgh Room		Ima GoodEgg with Stacey Durham (10:30-11:00)		MR. TANNEN'S TIES with Barbara Jones (11:30-12:00)			Best Books with Valerie Lewis (1:00-1:30)		Favorite Books with Dr. Janet Cathey (2:00-2:30)		Storytelling for All Ages with Lynn Rubright (3:00-4:00)								
Writer's Garden - Main Library				Create Book Tiles with CityYear Little Rock (11:30-1:00)				Junior Ranger Reading Rally (1:30-2:30)			BEATRICE'S GOAT and Read to Feed (3:00-4:00)								
Board Room				Curriculum Connections with Historical Fiction with Alexandria LaFaye (11:30-12:30)			Storytelling and Pathways to Literacy with Lynn Rubright (1:00-2:00)			Best Books for Children Birth to 14 Years with Valerie Lewis & Walter Mayes (2:30-3:30)									

Adult Event

Teen Event

Children’s Event

FEATURED AUTHORS

BIOGRAPHIES

EMILY AUERBACH

Biography

Emily Auerbach is a professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, co-host of Wisconsin Public Radio's "University of the Air," and director of the "Courage to Write" series of radio documentaries on women writers. Her highly praised book, *SEARCHING FOR JANE AUSTEN*, debunks the mythic image most people have of Jane Austen as a mild spinster who wrote cozy domestic tales. Auerbach creates a vivid and accurate portrait of a daring and brilliant writer who defied the conventions of her time. Auerbach holds a lifetime membership in the Jane Austen Society of North America.

Saturday, April 22 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Historic Arkansas Museum



KENNETH BARNES

Arkansas History

Kenneth Barnes, a native of Conway, teaches history at the University of Central Arkansas. His recent work explores the roots of political violence in Arkansas through little-known historical events, including the back-to-Africa movement that inspired many impoverished sharecroppers (most of whom lived in Arkansas) to move to Liberia in the late 1800s. *JOURNEY OF HOPE: The Back-to-Africa Movement in Arkansas* won the Arkansas Historical Association's John G. Ragsdale Award and the Arkansas Library Association's Arkansiana Book Award.

Sunday, April 23 1:15–2:15 p.m.
Historic Arkansas Museum

TREVOR BENNETT

Illustration

Trevor Bennett, who illustrated the children's book *BIG WOODS BIRD*, is a studio art major at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Trevor is also an Eagle Scout and a musician. He graduated from Parkview High School in Little Rock, where he and his family live.

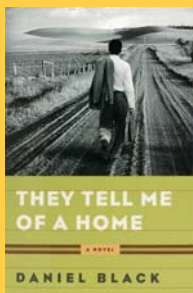
Children's Breakfast Special Event Saturday, April 22 9:00 a.m.
Clinton Presidential Center



DANIEL BLACK

Southern Fiction/African-American/Arkansas

In his debut novel, *THEY TELL ME OF A HOME*, African-American writer Daniel Black tells the compelling story of a young man who, on returning home to Arkansas after 10 years, unravels a history of family secrets. Set in the rural town of Swamp Creek (based on Blackwell, Arkansas, where the author grew up), *THEY TELL ME OF A HOME* demonstrates, according to Michael Eric Dyson, "that home may not be where the heart is, but it is surely where we must journey to know our true selves." Omotosho, as Black prefers to be called, is the founder of the Nzinga-Ndugu rites of passage society—a group whose focus is instilling principle



and character in the lives of African-American youths. He lives in Atlanta, where he is at work on his next novel.

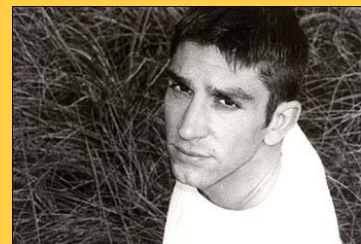
Sunday, April 23 1:15–2:15 p.m. Cox Creative Center

RICHARD BLANCO

Latino/Literature

Richard Blanco was "made in Cuba, assembled in Spain, and imported to the United States." His latest collection is *DIRECTIONS TO THE BEACH OF THE DEAD*, which explores questions of home and place. Since 1999, Blanco has lived in Guatemala, Brazil, Connecticut, and Washington, D.C., where he taught at Georgetown and American universities. His poems have appeared in major literary journals and anthologies, including *THE BEST AMERICAN POETRY 2000*, *GREAT AMERICAN PROSE POEMS* and *THE BREADLOAF ANTHOLOGY OF NEW AMERICAN POETS*. He has been featured on National Public Radio.

Saturday, April 22 2:00–4:00 p.m.
Willy D's Restaurant & Piano Bar



HIGGINS BOND

Illustration

Arkansan Higgins Bond, illustrator of *A PLACE FOR BUTTERFLIES*, has more than 25 years of experience. Her work includes commemorative stamps for the U.S. Postal Service and four stamps for the United Nations Postal Administration on endangered species, issued February 2001. She is a member of the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame and was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1986 from the Arkansas Sesquicentennial Committee honoring distinguished Arkansans in 1986, presented by Governor Bill Clinton.

Children's Breakfast Special Event Saturday, April 22 9:00 a.m.
Clinton Presidential Center
Saturday, April 22 2:00–2:45 p.m.
Youth Program Room, Main Library

THE BOOK GUYS: ALLAN STYPECK AND MIKE CUTHBERT

The Book Guys formed in the 1980s when Allan Stypeck paid a visit to Mike Cuthbert's radio show in Washington, D.C. The basic format remains: Listeners with books in their possession call the program and Allan gives them an appraisal based on their descriptions of the books. From there the program launches into topics both closely associated with and far afield from the book in question. You never know what's going to happen!

Thursday, April 20 6:00 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.
Darragh Center, Main Library



KEVIN BROCKMEIER

Arkansas Fiction/Young Adult

Since the rave reviews keep coming in, *THE BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DEAD*, a novel by Little Rock native Kevin Brockmeier, might be the hottest book of 2006. Brockmeier is also the author of the novel *THE TRUTH ABOUT CELIA*, the story collection *THINGS THAT*

FALL FROM THE SKY, and two children's novels, CITY OF NAMES and GROOVES: *A Kind of Mystery*. His stories have appeared in many publications, including *The New Yorker*, *McSweeney's*, *The Georgia Review*, THE BEST AMERICAN SHORT STORIES, THE YEAR'S BEST FANTASY AND HORROR, and multiple editions of THE O. HENRY PRIZE STORIES anthology.

Session 1: Saturday, April 22 2:30–3:15 p.m.
West Room, Main Library (GROOVES)

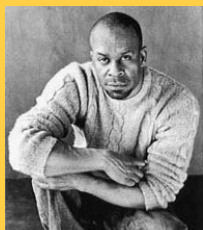
Session 2: Sunday, April 23 4:00–5:15 p.m. Darragh Center,
Main Library (THE BRIEF HISTORY)

JACK BUTLER Arkansas Fiction

Jack Butler has written poetry, short stories, a cookbook, and novels—including a coming-of-age tale (JUJITSU FOR CHRIST), a futuristic vampire yarn set on Mars (NIGHTSHADE), and a Southern Gothic cult classic narrated by the Holy Ghost in an Ozark accent (LIVING IN LITTLE ROCK WITH MISS LITTLE ROCK). Butler, who was born in Alligator, Mississippi, has worked as a Southern Baptist preacher, a fried-pie salesman, an actuarial analyst, and an assistant dean of a college. He attended the University of Arkansas and lived in Arkansas for 25 years before moving to Santa Fe, New Mexico, to teach creative writing at the College of Santa Fe.

Sunday, April 23 4:00–5:15 p.m.

Darragh Center, Main Library



H.G. CARRILLO Latino/Literature

H.G. Carrillo is the author of the novel LOOSING MY ESPANISH. He is a Ph.D. candidate and instructor in the department of English at Cornell University, where he received his MFA. His work has appeared in *Kenyon Review*, *Iowa Review*, *Glimmer Train*, *Bomb*, *Ninth Letter*, and other publications.

He was awarded the 2001 Glimmer Train Fiction Open First Prize and the 2004 Iowa Award and was named the 2005 Shane Stevens Fellow in the Novel at the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. He divides his time between New York and Puerto Rico.

Saturday, April 22 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Willy D's Restaurant & Piano Bar

DR. JANET CATHEY Children

Dr. Janet Cathey is known for her generous spirit and involvement in the Little Rock community. She joins the Festival this year as a guest reader.

Saturday, April 22 2:00–2:30 p.m.

Fribourgh Room, Main Library

JOE DRAPE Biography/Sports

Joe Drape started as a night cops reporter at the *Dallas Morning News*; then became a national correspondent for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*; and now covers national college football, basketball, and horseracing for the *New York Times*. "Like pitchers who have four pitches, all reporters must be able to



do everything," Drape has said. At the *Times*, Drape writes 240 bylines per year and has won numerous awards, including the Eclipse Award. His new book, BLACK MAESTRO: *The Epic Life of an American Legend*, tells the dazzling, little-known story of one of the greatest African-American athletes in history, the two-time Kentucky Derby winner and European horseracing superstar Jimmy Winkfield. Drape is also the author of THE RACE FOR THE TRIPLE CROWN: *Horses, High Stakes, & Eternal Hope*. He lives in New York City.

Sunday, April 23 4:00–5:00 p.m.

Cox Creative Center



STACEY DURHAM Children

Stacey Durham, who is now a financial analyst, taught in Texas public high schools for eight years. Her company, Kiddywumpas Inc., helps children achieve success and enjoy learning. Her series of children's books, THE ADVENTURES OF IMA GOODEGG, is designed to encourage children's imaginations so they may become productive members of society.

Saturday, April 22 10:30–11:00 a.m.

Fribourgh Room, Main Library

BETH ANN FENNELLY Poetry/Mothering

Beth Ann Fennelly's first book of poetry, OPEN HOUSE, won the 2001 Kenyon Review Prize and was a Book Sense Top Ten poetry pick. About her most recent collection, TENDER HOOKS, the singer Lucinda Williams said: "She explores areas openly that others only think about in the privacy of their minds. Her poems are brave and beautiful." In her first nonpoetry book, GREAT WITH CHILD: *Letters to a Young Mother*, which has just been published, Fennelly uses sensitive language and fresh thinking to explore motherhood in an intimate and novel fashion. She is an assistant professor of English at the University of Mississippi and lives in Oxford with her husband, writer Tom Franklin, and their two children.

Session 1: Saturday, April 22 10:00–11:00 a.m.

Cox Creative Center (Poetry)

Session 2: Saturday, April 22 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Cox Creative Center (Mothering)



CHARLES FISHMAN Business/Society

Charles Fishman is currently senior editor at *Fast Company* magazine, and his new book, THE WAL-MART EFFECT: *How the World's Most Powerful Company Really Works—and How It's Transforming the American Economy*, is the definitive guide to understanding a business that has 1.6 million employees in the U.S. alone. The book is based on his provocative *Fast Company* cover story, "The Wal-Mart You Don't Know," which generated the strongest reader response in the history of that magazine, and won Best Business Magazine Story from the New York Press Club. In 2005, Fishman won a Gerald Loeb Award for distinguished business journalism.

Sunday, April 23 2:30–3:30 p.m.

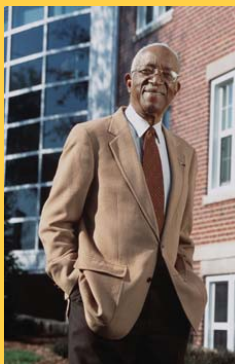
Darragh Center, Main Library



JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN
Autobiography/History

At age 90, the pioneering American historian John Hope Franklin recalls his amazing life in *MIRROR TO AMERICA: The Autobiography of John Hope Franklin*. Born in Oklahoma in 1915, Franklin studied at Fisk University and Harvard, taught at some of the nation's most prestigious universities, served on committees for FDR and Bill Clinton, published seminal histories of blacks in America, and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his work in Civil Rights. *MIRROR TO AMERICA*, said President Bill Clinton, "calls upon all Americans to look at our nation's past so that we may destroy the color line that continues to divide our country, and progress together into the future." John Hope Franklin is the James B. Duke Professor Emeritus of History (he has also taught at Duke Law School). He has written too many books and has won too many prestigious awards to mention in this brief space. He has also served on numerous national commissions and delegations, including the National Council on the Humanities. He was the subject of the documentary film *First Person Singular: John Hope Franklin*, which aired on PBS.

Saturday, April 22 2:30–3:30 p.m.
Darragh Center, Main Library



TOM FRANKLIN
Historical Fiction/Southern Noir



Tom Franklin was raised in rural Alabama and educated at the University of South Alabama and the University of Arkansas. His stories have been selected for such anthologies as *BEST AMERICAN MYSTERY STORIES OF THE CENTURY*; *NEW STORIES FROM THE SOUTH*, 1999; and *STORIES FROM THE BLUE MOON CAFÉ*. His acclaimed collection of short stories, *POACHERS*, portrayed a rough world of hunting, gambling, and drinking

in the swamplands of Alabama and was described as "raw and startling" (Rick Bass) and "darker than anything delivered since the work of James Dickey" (*San Francisco Chronicle*). *Esquire* named it a Best First Book of Fiction. Franklin's novel, *HELL AT THE BREECH*, a gritty tale that combines historical event and lyrical prose, drew comparisons to Elmore Leonard, Raymond Chandler, and William Faulkner. *USA Today* called it "a literary knockout."

Saturday, April 22 1:00–2:00 p.m.
Historic Arkansas Museum

BILL FRISKICS-WARREN
Music/Spirituality

Does pop music have an inner life? Music critic Bill Friskics-Warren probes a vast array of popular songs by musicians including Jimi Hendrix, U2, Madonna, Public Enemy, and the Mekons in *I'LL TAKE YOU THERE: Pop Music and the Urge for Transcendence* and finds spiritual inclinations that span historical and cultural moments. Friskics-Warren is also the coauthor of *HEARTACHES BY THE NUMBER: Country Music's 500 Greatest Singles*, a groundbreaking and definitive resource. Friskics-Warren has written about popular music for the *New York Times*, the *Village Voice*, the *Washington Post*, *No Depression*, *The Oxford American*,



and *Rock & Rap Confidential*, among other publications. He is the music editor of the *Nashville Scene*.

Sunday, April 23 1:15–2:15 p.m.
Darragh Center, Main Library

WILLIAM FROUG
Screenwriting/Autobiography

William Froug's numerous honors include Producer of the Year; Best Produced Motion Picture for Television; and the Valentine Davies Award. Froug—who is professor emeritus and former chair at the UCLA School for Theater Arts, Film, and Television—has taught screenwriting for 16 years. Originally from Little Rock, Froug is an Emmy Award-winning writer-producer whose television credits include *Playhouse 90*, *The Twilight Zone*, *Bewitched*, *Gilligan's Island*, and *Charlie's Angels*. Froug's new memoir, *HOW I ESCAPED FROM GILLIGAN'S ISLAND AND OTHER MISADVENTURES OF A HOLLYWOOD WRITER-PRODUCER*, describes 40 years in the TV industry.

Saturday, April 22 10:00–11:00 a.m.
Historic Arkansas Museum



FAYE HANSON
Storytelling

"Stories are gifts from the heart which spark the imagination and revive the memory. They give us a sense of who we are, as individuals and as a culture. They give us a sense of time and place," says Faye Hanson, a storyteller who brings traditional, historical, and original tales to life for audiences of all ages. Hanson is a member of the Arkansas Arts Center "Arts on Tour" program.

Saturday, April 22 10:30–11:30 a.m.
Youth Program Room, Main Library

DONALD HARINGTON



Arkansas Fiction

Donald Harington, who has been called "an undiscovered continent" and "America's greatest unknown novelist," creates fictional worlds that are rooted in his native Arkansas. *THE PITCHER SHOWER*, the latest addition to his acclaimed *STAY MORE* series of novels, is "a meditation on faith and belief, and on dreams" (*Boston Globe*). His novels include *WHEN ANGELS REST* (winner of the Arkansas Library Association's Arkansas Fiction Award), *BUTTERFLY WEED*, *EKATERINA*, *THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE ARKANSAS OZARKS*, *LIGHTNING BUG*, and *THE CHERRY PIT*. Harington has won many awards, including the Robert Penn Warren Award, the Porter Prize, and the Heasley Prize. He lives with his wife, Kim, in Fayetteville, where he teaches at the University of Arkansas.

Sunday, April 23 4:00–5:15 p.m.
Darragh Center, Main Library

ROBERT HICKS
Historical Fiction/Civil War

Robert Hicks' novel *THE WIDOW OF THE SOUTH* was described by *BookPage* as a "Civil War page-turner." Hicks based *THE WIDOW OF THE SOUTH* on a real person, Carrie McGavock, a lonely Confederate wife who finds purpose transforming her Franklin, Tennessee, plantation into a



hospital and cemetery during the Civil War. The result was a *New York Times* bestseller.

Saturday, April 22 1:00–2:00 p.m.
Historic Arkansas Museum

BILLY HIGGINS
Arkansas History

Billy Higgins' *A STRANGER AND A SOJOURNER: Peter Caulder, Free Black Frontiersman in Antebellum Arkansas* tells the story of Peter Caulder, who established a community of free-born African Americans in northern Arkansas until an 1859 expulsion law forced the community to flee the state and settle in Missouri. Higgins has been a professor of history at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith since 1993. His essays on African-American culture before and after the Civil War have appeared in *FREEDOM'S ODYSSEY: African American History Essays from Phylon* and the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*.

Sunday, April 23 1:15–2:15 p.m.
Historic Arkansas Museum



BARBARA JONES
Storytelling

Barbara Jones teaches fourth grade at Westside Elementary School in Searcy, Arkansas. Jones has degrees from the University of Arkansas and Harding University and was Westside's Teacher of the Year in 1991. In addition to her love of children, Jones holds dear her music, drama, and scrapbooking work.

Saturday, April 22 11:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Fribourgh Room, Main Library



RIVER JORDAN
Southern Fiction

Southern literature has a feisty new voice with River Jordan, author of *THE MESSENGER OF MAGNOLIA STREET*. Set in the sultry town of Shibboleth, Alabama, this novel describes three childhood friends who reunite to fight a mysterious presence that is slowly draining their town of goodness. A novelist and playwright, Jordan is also the founder of W.O.R.D. (Writing for Ourselves and Reading for Discovery), a

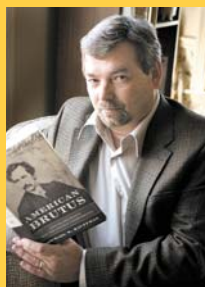
program designed to introduce and inspire a new generation to the power of storytelling. She teaches writing workshops and promotes literacy around the country.

Sunday, April 23 1:15–2:15 p.m.
Cox Creative Center

MICHAEL W. KAUFFMAN
American History/John Wilkes Booth

Michael W. Kauffman is a political historian and graduate of the University of Virginia who has studied the Lincoln assassination for more than 30 years. He has appeared on A&E, The History Channel, C-SPAN, and The Learning Channel and was called to testify as an expert witness in the 1995 John Wilkes Booth exhumation hearings. In *AMERICAN BRUTUS: John Wilkes Booth and the Lincoln Conspiracies*, Kauffman takes familiar history to a deeper level, offering an unprecedented, authoritative account of the Lincoln murder conspiracy. Kauffman lives in Maryland.

Saturday, April 22 4:00–5:00 p.m.
Darragh Center, Main Library



BRIAN KINDER
Children's Singer/Songwriter

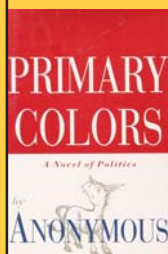
Brian Kinder combines guitar-playing talent and whimsical songwriting skills to amuse and entertain children of all ages. In a one-man rollicking performance, he weaves together stories and music that stir the imagination with tales drawn from his own life as well as from the lives of his family and friends. Brian and his wife, Terri, inspire young and old audiences to laugh, sing, dance, and clap with the music.

Saturday, April 22 4:00–5:00 p.m.
Youth Program Room, Main Library

MELISSA KING
Women/Sports

Melissa King's celebrated debut, *SHE'S GOT NEXT: A Story of Getting In, Staying Open, and Taking a Shot*, is an engaging and smart memoir that chronicles her unusual odyssey through the world of pickup basketball from playgrounds to gyms to the YMCA. King has written for *Sports Illustrated*, *Chicago Reader*, *Sport Literate*, *Arkansas Times*, and other publications. Her story "It's All in the Game" was selected by novelist Richard Ford for *THE BEST AMERICAN SPORTS WRITING* anthology. King is a native of Conway, Arkansas.

Saturday, April 22 1:00–2:00 p.m.
Cox Creative Center



JOE KLEIN
Politics

One of the best political journalists in the country, Joe Klein is a senior writer and columnist for *Time* magazine. He has also written for *The New Yorker*, *The New Republic*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *Life*, and *Rolling Stone*. As "Anonymous," Klein wrote the critically acclaimed novel *PRIMARY COLORS*, a bestseller inspired by the 1992 presidential race. He is also the author of

THE RUNNING MATE, THE NATURAL: Bill Clinton's Misunderstood Presidency, *PAYBACK: Five Marines After Vietnam*, and *WOODY GUTHRIE: A Life*. In his new book, *POLITICS LOST: How American Democracy Was Trivialized by People Who Think You're Stupid*, Klein finds pollsters and spinsters to be at the root of our current political crisis.

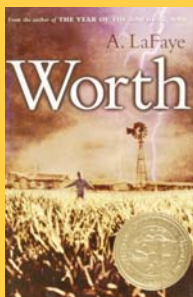
Saturday, April 22 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Darragh Center, Main Library

RAY "DR. BBQ" LAMPE
Food/BBQ

Ray Lampe, better known as "Dr. BBQ," has dedicated his life to preserving the traditions of barbecue and teaching its virtues to everyone who will listen (and to several who won't!). His book, *DR. BBQ'S BIG-TIME BARBECUE COOKBOOK: A Real Barbecue Champion Brings the Tasty Recipes and Juicy Stories of the Barbecue Circuit to Your Backyard*, gives plenty of instruction and recipes as well as a good dose of opinion. To Dr. BBQ, barbecue isn't just a way of life—it is life.

Guest Speaker at LUNCH WITH "DR. BBQ"
Friday, April 21 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
East Pavilion, River Market





ALEXANDRIA LaFAYE

Young Adult/Historical Novel

A reader once said of Alexandria LaFaye's first novel, *THE YEAR OF THE SAWDUST MAN*, "I couldn't put it down, I was afraid [the characters] would do something while I was away!" LaFaye's novels also include *EDITH SHAY*; *DAD, IN SPIRIT*; *STRAWBERRY HILL*; *NISSA'S PLACE*; *THE STRENGTH OF SAINTS*; and the Scott O'Dell Award-winning novel *WORTH*. LaFaye, who is an

assistant professor of creative writing and children's literature at California State University, San Bernardino, is currently on sabbatical in Arkansas.

Session 1: Saturday, April 22 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Board Room, Main Library (professional development workshop)

Session 2: Saturday, April 22 2:30–3:15 p.m. West Room, Main Library (reading)

DIANE LES BECQUETS

Young Adult Fiction

Diane Les Becquets (pronounced "le Beck") was hailed by *Publishers Weekly* as "a writer to watch" after the publication of her first novel, *THE STONES OF MOURNING CREEK*. She recently completed her MFA in creative writing. Her current novel is *LOVE, CAJUN STYLE*. Diane lives in Colorado with her three sons.

Saturday, April 22 10:00–10:45 a.m.

West Room, Main Library



VALERIE LEWIS

Children's Anthology

Children's literature expert Valerie Lewis is coauthor of *VALERIE & WALTER'S BEST BOOKS FOR CHILDREN* and co-owner of Hicklebee's bookstore in San Jose, California. She appears on the CBS *Early Show* and National Public Radio. An acclaimed children's storyteller, Valerie meets regularly with a variety of audiences to share her passion for young readers' literature, from board books to picture books to early readers to novels.

Session 1: Saturday, April 22 1:00–1:30 p.m.

Fribourgh Room, Main Library

Session 2: Saturday, April 22 2:30–3:30 p.m. Board Room, Main Library (professional development workshop)



TERRI ROBERTS LUNEAU

Children's Nonfiction

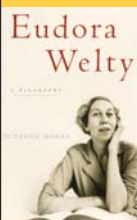
Terri Roberts Luneau, author of *BIG WOODS BIRD: An Ivory-bill Story*, is a certified public accountant who enjoys both birds and children's books. She grew up in Houston, Texas, and graduated from Houston Baptist University in 1980 with degrees in accounting and mass media. She lives in Little Rock with her husband, David, and their two children, Andrea and Kevin.

Children's Breakfast Special Event Saturday, April 22 9:00 a.m. Clinton Presidential Center

SUZANNE MARRS

Biography

With the publication of *EUDORA WELTY: A Biography*, Millsaps College professor Dr. Suzanne Marrs sheds new light on the life of one of



America's most beloved and respected writers. The newly released biography has been admired by many prominent publications, including the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Boston Globe*, and the *New York Times*.

Saturday, April 22 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Historic Arkansas Museum

DEBORAH MATHIS

Religion

Deborah Mathis, the author of *YET A STRANGER: Why Black Americans Still Don't Feel at Home*, is a regular commentator on America's Black Forum and has appeared on *The O'Reilly Factor*, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *Good Morning America*, *Frontline*, and other national political and talk shows. Her journalism career began in Little Rock, when she worked for the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* as a reporter and editor. She was the first African American and the first woman to sit on the board of the newspaper. Mathis' new book, *WHAT GOD CAN DO: How Faith Changes Lives for the Better*, chronicles the experiences of ordinary individuals as they face everyday trials and tragedies, recognizing that their lives have been touched by the divine.

Sunday, April 23 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Historic Arkansas Museum

CARLA KILLOUGH McCLAFFERTY

Young Adult/Science/Biography

Carla Killough McClafferty's latest title for middle-school-aged readers is *SOMETHING OUT OF NOTHING: Marie Curie & Radium*. The National Science Teacher's Association Children's Book Council chose her book *THE HEAD BONE'S CONNECTED TO THE NECK BONE: The Weird, Wacky, and Wonderful X-Ray* as a Junior Library Guild Selection and an Outstanding Science Trade Book for Children; the book also landed on the New York Public Library's list of books for teenagers. McClafferty lives in North Little Rock.

Saturday, April 22 1:00–1:45 p.m.

West Room, Main Library



WALTER "THE GIANT STORYTELLER" MAYES

Storytelling/Children's Anthology

Walter "The Giant Storyteller" Mayes is over six feet, seven inches tall. (Some kids swear he's over nine feet tall.) Mayes has spent most of his adult life entertaining and enlightening both children and adults with books. Dynamic and wildly popular, Mayes travels the country throughout the year, making appearances at schools, libraries, bookstores, conferences, and

seminars, where he emphasizes the daily necessity of books and stories in all our children's lives. Mayes is co-author of *VALERIE & WALTER'S BEST BOOKS FOR CHILDREN*. Mayes makes his home in San Francisco and is the proud father of a teenage son.

Session 1: Saturday, April 22 1:00–1:30 p.m.

Youth Program Room, Main Library (reading)

Session 2: Saturday, April 22 2:30–3:30 p.m. Board Room, Main Library (professional development workshop)



KRISTA McGRUDER

Debut Fiction

Krista McGruder, author of the story collection BEULAH LAND, was raised near the Arkansas border in Neosho, Missouri, and now owns a farm in The Natural State. Author Frank McCourt called the collection “a hell of a good read” and “a mine of information on various corners of American life ... in a packet of prose so polished, so assured, we want to hear more from Krista McGruder—

soon and often.” McGruder obtained a BA from Yale. Her fiction has appeared in *The North American Review* and THE BEST OF CARVE MAGAZINE and has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

Sunday, April 23 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Cox Creative Center

ADRIENNE MILLER

Debut Fiction/Publishing

The debut novel by Adrienne Miller, THE COAST OF AKRON, was one of the most-talked-about books of 2005. The *Village Voice* called it “a big, brashly ambitious novel that does not deal in half-measures. She takes on sexuality, gender roles, art, celebrity, the pathos of the Midwest, and the banality of glossy mags.” Miller was born in 1972 in Columbus, Ohio, and moved to New York in the spring of 1994, a week before her college graduation. She worked at *GQ* as an editorial assistant and then as an assistant editor. In 1997, she became the literary editor of *Esquire*, a role from which she recently retired to devote herself completely to writing.

Session 1: Friday, April 21 4:00–5:00 p.m.

Darragh Center, Main Library (publishing)

Session 2: Saturday, April 22 4:00–5:00 p.m.

Historic Arkansas Museum (debut fiction)



SPEER MORGAN

Arkansas Fiction/Publishing

Speer Morgan teaches fiction writing at the University of Missouri and is the editor of *The Missouri Review*, a position he's held for 23 years. He is the author of a collection of short stories, FROG GIG AND OTHER STORIES, and five novels—the most recent of which, THE FRESHOUR CYLINDERS, won the National Book Award, the American Book Award and *Foreword Magazine's* Silver Award for the best book of the year. He was born and raised in Fort Smith, Arkansas, and earned a BA from the University of Arkansas. Morgan's first novel, BELLE STARR, was set in Arkansas and the Indian Territory during the late 1800s. Morgan is also the coeditor of THE BEST OF THE MISSOURI REVIEW and FOR OUR BELOVED COUNTRY: *Diaries of Americans in War*.

Session 1: Friday, April 21 4:00–5:00 p.m.

Darragh Center, Main Library (publishing)

Session 2: Saturday, April 22 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Historic Arkansas Museum (fiction writing)



MANUEL MUÑOZ

Latino/Literature

Manuel Muñoz is the author of ZIGZAGGER, a short-story collection. His work has appeared in *Colorado Review*, *Boston Review*, *Epoch*, *Swink*, *Glimmer Train*, and other journals and is forthcoming in *Rush Hour*. His second collection of short stories will be published in 2007 by Algonquin Books. Born and raised in Dinuba, California,

Muñoz graduated from Harvard University and received his MFA in creative writing at Cornell University. He lives in New York City, where he is at work on a novel.

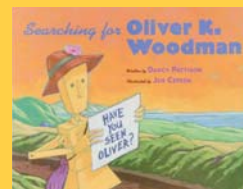
Saturday, April 22 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Willy D's Restaurant & Piano Bar

DARCY PATTISON

Children's Fiction/Young Adult Fantasy

Darcy Pattison has written nonfiction for children in *Kids Wall Street News* and fiction for *Clubhouse Magazine*. Her most recent title is SEARCHING FOR OLIVER K. WOODMAN. Other titles include THE JOURNEY OF OLIVER K. WOODMAN, THE WAYFINDER, and THE RIVER DRAGON—all award-winners. She also teaches writing at the University of Central Arkansas and is a member of the Authors Guild. Pattison lives in North Little Rock with her husband and three children.



Session 1: Saturday, April 22 1:00–1:45 p.m.

West Room, Main Library (WAYFINDER)

Session 2: Saturday, April 22 3:00–3:30 p.m.

Youth Program Room, Main Library

(SEARCHING FOR OLIVER K. WOODMAN)

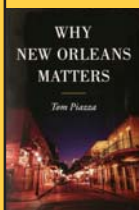
WILLIE PERDOMO

Latino/Literature

Willie Perdomo is the author of WHERE A NICKEL COSTS A DIME and SMOKING LOVELY, which won the PEN American Center's Beyond Margins Award, and POSTCARDS OF EL BARRIO/ POSTALES DEL BARRIO, which was published in Puerto Rico. He has been published in the *New York Times Magazine*, *Bomb*, and *PEN America: A Journal for Writers and Readers*. He is the author of *Visiting Langston*, a Coretta Scott King Honor Book for Children, illustrated by Bryan Collier. He has been featured on several PBS documentaries, including *Words in Your Face* and *The United States of Poetry*, and has appeared on HBO's *Def Poetry Jam* and BET's *Hughes' Dream Harlem*. Perdomo has received the New York Foundation for the Arts fiction and poetry fellowships and is currently editorial director at Cypher Books.

Saturday, April 22 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Willy D's Restaurant & Piano Bar



TOM PIAZZA

New Orleans/Nonfiction

What is the meaning of a place like New Orleans, and what is lost if it is lost? In WHY NEW ORLEANS MATTERS, award-winning author and New Orleans resident Tom Piazza illuminates the storied culture and uncertain future of this great city. Piazza is the author of seven previous works of fiction and nonfiction, including the acclaimed novel MY COLD WAR and the recent music book UNDERSTANDING JAZZ. A graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, he is the recipient of a James Michener Fellowship in Fiction and a Grammy Award for his album notes to MARTIN SCORSESE PRESENTS THE BLUES: *A Musical Journey*.

Saturday, April 22 10:00–11:00 a.m.

Darragh Center, Main Library

NATE POWELL

Graphic Novels/Cartooning

Talented young graphic novelist Nate Powell, who was born and raised in Little Rock, is the author of *TINY GIANTS* and *IT DISAPPEARS*, both published by Soft Skull Press. His underground comic art features a bold, stark graphic style and storylines that recall the moody world of a David Lynch movie. His singular talent has drawn praise for its wit and sophistication. Powell is a graduate of New York's School of Visual Arts, where he won the Outstanding Cartooning Award. He is also a member of a popular punk band, Soophie Nun Squad. Powell currently lives in Bloomington, Indiana.

Sunday, April 23 4:00–5:00 p.m.

Historic Arkansas Museum

LYNN RUBRIGHT

Storytelling

Lynn Rubright is a master educator, workshop leader, speaker, writer, and professional storyteller. Her graduate course, "Storytelling Across the Curriculum," has been taught at Webster University, St. Louis, since 1971. Project TELL (Teaching English through Living Language), Rubright's three-year federally funded Title IV-C program for a St. Louis school district, explored how storytelling and related expressive arts could be used to motivate students. She is also co-founder of the Metro Theater Circus (now called Metro Theater Company), which won a Winifred Ward Award for best new children's theater.

Session 1: Saturday, April 22 1:00–2:00 p.m. Board Room, Main Library (professional development workshop)

Session 2: Saturday, April 22 3:00–4:00 p.m.

Fribourgh Room, Main Library (storytelling)

RENÉ SALDAÑA JR.

Latino/Literature

René Saldaña Jr., is an assistant professor of English and creative writing at the University of Texas-Pan American, and has published two books—a novel, *THE JUMPING TREE*, and a short-story collection, *FINDING OUR WAY*. His next novel, *THE WHOLE DERN SKY OF STARS*, is due out in the spring of 2007. Saldaña received various degrees in English and creative writing from Bob Jones University, Clemson University and Georgia State University. He lives in Edinburg, Texas, with his wife, their son, and their cat.

Session 1: Saturday, April 22 10:00–10:45 a.m.

West Room, Main Library (young adults)

Session 2: Saturday, April 22 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Willy D's Restaurant & Piano Bar

DAYNE SHERMAN

Debut Fiction

Dayne Sherman earned a master's degree from Louisiana State University. His stories have been published in a number of literary magazines and anthologized in *STORIES FROM THE BLUE MOON CAFÉ III*. His first novel, *WELCOME TO THE FALLEN PARADISE*, was deemed "spirited and engaging" by *Publishers Weekly* and was named one of the best crime novel debuts of the year by *Booklist* and Best Debut of the Year by the *Times-Picayune*; it was also selected as a Book Sense Notable title. Currently, Sherman works as a librarian in his native Louisiana.

Session 1: Saturday, April 22 10:00–10:45 a.m.

West Room, Main Library (young adults)

Session 2: Sunday, April 23 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Cox Creative Center (debut fiction)



GEORGE SINGLETON

Debut Fiction/Humor

Singleton's fiction, which has been called "meticulously deranged" and "delightfully obsessive," is populated with loony but believable Southerners who inspire hilarity and pathos. "Thank God for George Singleton," said the *Times-Picayune*, "who makes us laugh and makes us think." Singleton's story collections include *THESE PEOPLE ARE US* and *THE HALF-MAMMALS OF DIXIE*. His recent first novel,

NOVEL, contained the classic Singleton combination of "drollness and slow-release jokes," according to the *New York Times*.

Saturday, April 22 4:00–5:00 p.m.

Historic Arkansas Museum

MELISSA STEWART

Children and Young Adult Literature

Melissa Stewart has written more than 70 books for young readers, earning such awards as the NCSS/CBC Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People, NSTA Recommended Title, NYPL Books for the Teen Age, Science Books & Film's Editors' Choice, and Science Books & Film's Best Book of the Year. She has taught fiction and nonfiction writing classes for children and adults. In her free time, Stewart explores the wilds near her home in eastern Massachusetts.

Session 1: Children's Breakfast Special Event

Saturday, April 22 9:00 a.m. Clinton Presidential Center

Session 2: Saturday, April 22 2:00–2:45 p.m.

Youth Program Room, Main Library

GRIF STOCKLEY

ARKANSAS HISTORY

Grif Stockley is the Dee Brown Fellow for the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies in Little Rock, where he is completing a history of race relations in Arkansas in time for the 50th Anniversary of the Central High School Desegregation Crisis in 2007. His biography, *DAISY BATES: Civil Rights Crusader from Arkansas*, was published by the University Press of Mississippi in November of 2005. He is also the author of six novels: *EXPERT TESTIMONY*, *PROBABLE CAUSE*, *RELIGIOUS CONVICTION*, *ILLEGAL MOTION*, *BLIND JUDGMENT* and *SALTED WITH FIRE*. His first nonfiction work, *BLOOD IN THEIR EYES: The Elaine Race Massacres of 1919*, published by the University of Arkansas Press in 2001, won the Booker-Worthen Prize and received a Certificate of Commendation from the American Association for State and Local History. He has won the Porter Prize for fiction and is a member of the Arkansas Writers Hall of Fame. He represented indigents as a Legal Services attorney for 29 years and served for two years as a staff attorney for the ACLU of Arkansas. A former Peace Corps volunteer in Colombia, he also served two years in the military. He has two granddaughters, Rachel and Carrie.

Saturday, April 22 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Cox Creative Center



ELIZABETH TOPP and DR. CAROL LIVOTI

Women/Sexuality

There are some words in the English language that make people uncomfortable and squeamish, and *vagina* is certainly near the top of the list. A mother-daughter writing duo has taken a good-humored but practical approach to the workings of women's bodies in a groundbreaking book, *VAGINAS: An Owner's Manual*.

Supported with years of medical practice, the book clears up the myths and misconceptions that many women have because they're embarrassed by the subject. Elizabeth Topp, a Harvard graduate, has written for the popular *Let's Go* travel guide series and worked with Al Franken. Her mother, Dr. Carol Livoti, has been an OB/GYN for more than 20 years and has her own practice in New York City.

Saturday, April 22 4:00–5:00 p.m.
Cox Creative Center



LISA TUCKER

Fiction

Lisa Tucker is the author of three novels: *ONCE UPON A DAY* (coming out this month), *THE SONG READER*, and *SHOUT DOWN THE MOON*. 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.

Saturday, April 22 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Historic Arkansas Museum

LILIANA VALENZUELA

Latino/Literature

Liliana Valenzuela is the acclaimed translator of *CARAMELO*, *EL ARROYO DE LA LLORONA*, and *HAIRS/PELITOS* by Sandra Cisneros. She has just completed a translation of *¡CARAMBA!*, a novel by Nina Marie Martinez, to be published by Vintage Español in the fall of 2006. Born and raised in Mexico City, Valenzuela is an adopted *tejana*. A graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, she received a BA and an MA in cultural anthropology and folklore. Her award-winning poetry and fiction have appeared in various journals and anthologies. She lives with her family in Austin.

Saturday, April 22 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Willy D's Restaurant & Piano Bar



KATRINA VANDENBERG

Poetry

Katrina Vandenberg's first book of poems, *ATLAS*, describes events that reverberate and repeat across time and place. Drawing on family artifacts, memory, and imagination, Vandenberg plots the intersections of love, death, history, art, and desire. Vandenberg

is a former Fulbright fellow in the Netherlands and has held an artist residency at the Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in Redwing, Minnesota. Her poems have appeared in *The Iowa Review*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *The American Scholar*, and other journals. A graduate of the University of Arkansas' MFA program, she is currently visiting professor of poetry at the University of Arkansas.

Saturday, April 22 10:00–11:00 a.m.

Cox Creative Center



TOM WILLIAMS

Publishing/Arkansas

Tom Williams, assistant professor of English and creative writing at Arkansas State University (ASU), is the general editor of *Arkansas Review: A Journal of Delta Studies*. Williams, who joined the ASU faculty in 2000, is a graduate of Ashland College and holds an MA from Ohio State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Houston. He has published fiction

in a number of periodicals and previously served as creative materials editor for *The Arkansas Review*.

Friday, April 21 4:00–5:00 p.m.

Darragh Center, Main Library

GARRY WILLS

Religion/Society

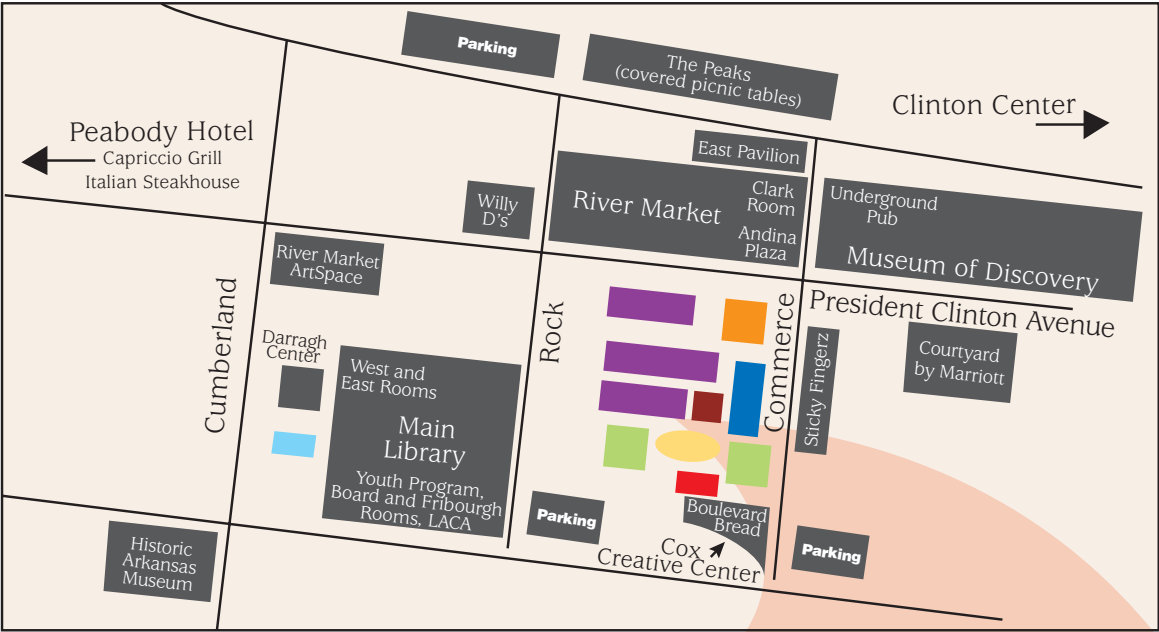
One of the most respected writers on religion, history, and culture, Garry Wills is the author of *WHY I AM A CATHOLIC*, a *New York Times* bestseller; *THE ROSARY*; *PAPAL SIN*; *SAINT AUGUSTINE*; *HENRY ADAMS AND THE MAKING OF AMERICA*; *NEGRO PRESIDENT: Jefferson and the Slave Power*; and *LINCOLN AT GETTYSBURG*, which won the Pulitzer Prize. In his newest book, *WHAT JESUS MEANT*, Wills examines what Jesus actually said about how we should live our lives and how he chose to live his life in a time of social and political controversy. Wills is a regular contributor to *The New York Review of Books* and a recipient of many awards, including two National Book Critics Circle Awards and the 1998 National Medal for the Humanities.

Saturday, April 22 1:00–2:00 p.m.

Darragh Center, Main Library

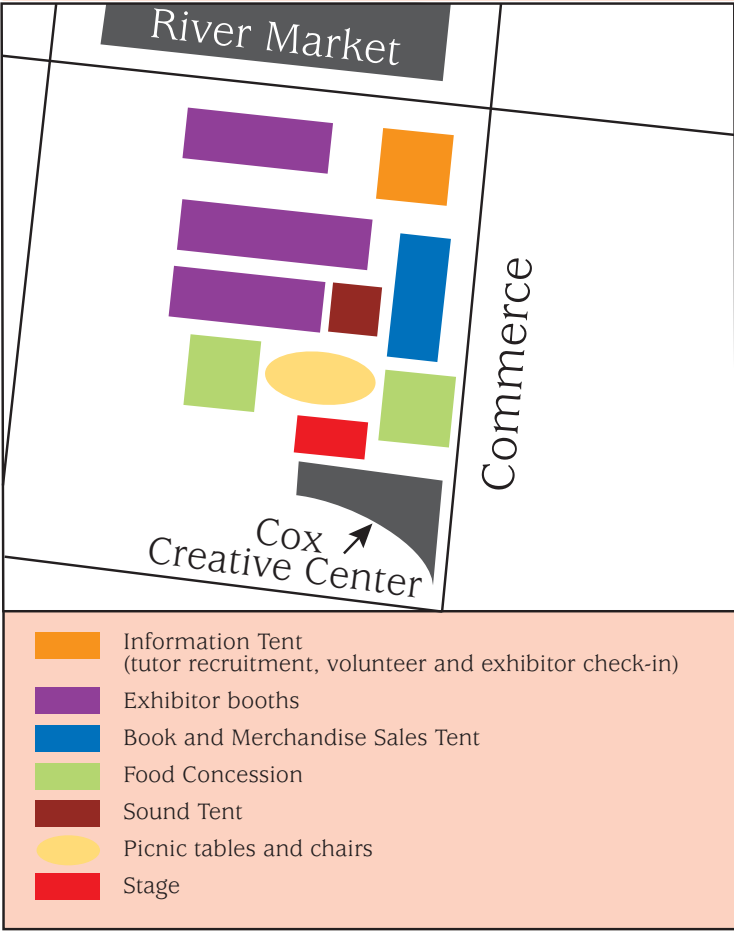


FESTIVAL MAP



EXHIBITORS

- Arkansas Library Association
- Arkansas Review
- Arkansas Senior Medicare/Medicaid Patrol
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