Thursday, April 27

WITS
Adam Silvera and Estelle Laure visit Hall High School and Central High School for the Festival’s Writers in the Schools Initiative (WITS). Sponsored by Wright, Lindsey & Jennings LLP.
Thursday • area schools • all day

Add a Pinch
Wondering what’s for supper? Robyn Stone’s new cookbook, Add A Pinch, helps. It includes recipes that can be ready in 30 minutes or less, that contain 10 ingredients or less, and that can be made ahead of time. It also includes instructions for turning leftovers into new and exciting meals. In this session, Stone provides tips, tricks, and a sample meal plan with a shopping list.
Thursday • MLDC • noon

Right to Write
Inspiring poet Marquese McFerguson leads a bold writing workshop for aspiring poets and those interested in civil rights.
Thursday • MTCC • noon

Redemptive Hope
Be privy to The Wide Circumference of Love as Marita Golden discusses some of the research she conducted on Alzheimer’s disease for her new book of fiction, Golden “deeply explores this nuanced and timely subject through the African American experience.”
Thursday • MTCC • 6:30 p.m.

Unmentionable
Hear a humorous reading from Unmentionable by Therese O’Neill about the hidden secrets of Victorian femininity, such as how women went to the bathroom, what they wore under their dresses, and how they managed menstruation. Find out details no one ever dared to write down. Recommended for mature audiences.
Sponsored by ESSE Purse Museum.
Thursday • ESSE Purse Museum • 6:30 p.m.

History is All You Left Me, You Little Secret Keeper, But Then I Came Back
This mash up of magical realism, dering-do, “lies and honesty,” antique watches, OCD, grief, parkour, and “the imperfect beauty of young love” features adventure-maker Trenton Lee Stewart, The Secret Keepers; dream-weaver Estelle Laure, But Then I Came Back; and heartbreaker Adam Silvera, History Is All You Left Me.
Thursday • Level 4 • 6:30 p.m.

Classic in Context: Lolita
Go beyond the page with an exploration of the controversial bestseller by Nabokov. Alex Beam of the Boston Globe leads the discussion, which will include references to his book The Feud: Vladimir Nabokov, Edmund Wilson, and the End of a Beautiful Friendship.
Thursday • RRT • 6:30 p.m.

Lolita (nr)
Stanley Kubrick’s dazzling 1962 film, with a screenplay by Vladimir Nabokov himself, stars James Mason, Shelley Winters, and Peter Sellers. The Classic in Context session and film are recommended for mature audiences.
Thursday • MTCC • 8:00 p.m.

Washington’s Warning
The Daily Beast’s John Avlon will discuss Washington’s Farewell: The Founding Father’s Warning to Future Generations, which describes George Washington’s prophetic letter to his fellow citizens about the forces he feared could destroy our democracy: hyper-partisanship, excessive debt, and foreign wars. Avlon offers a portrait of our first president and his battle to save America from self-destruction. Sponsored by University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service.
Thursday • Choctaw Station • 7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 28

WITS
The Writers in the Schools (WITS) Initiative continues with Robin Barone, Thi Bui, Garrard Conley, Floyd Cooper, Amina Gautier, Shaun Harris, Arie Kaplan, Marquese McFerguson, Tracy Chiles McGhee, Drew Philp, Dori Rabinyan, Stephanie Storey, Kanishk Tharoor, and Elijah Wald visiting Gibbs Elementary, Meadow Park Elementary, Rockefeller Elementary, Stephens Elementary, Central High School, J. A. Fair High School, Hall High School, Henderson State University, Hendrix College, Philander Smith College, Pulaski Academy, and more. Sponsored by Wright, Lindsey & Jennings LLP.
Friday • area schools • all day

The Mayor’s Day of Science and Reading
Students will meet Vancouver physicist Dominic Walliman, known for his eye-popping Professor Astro Cat series, and the impressive Floyd Cooper, whose most recent work includes The Ring Bearer. The Tonight Show’s science presenter Kevin Delaney will make a special guest appearance. Limited seating for the public is available. Call Ginsie Simmons at (501) 537-3081.
Friday • Clinton Presidential Center, Museum of Discovery, City of Little Rock, and Mayor Mark Stodola.
Friday • Clinton Presidential Center & Museum of Discovery 9:30 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.

War Stories
Senior archivist Brian Robertson takes the audience on a spirited trip through the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies’ veterans’ history projects. Access incredible stories, thousands of photographs, and hundreds of letters from Arkansans who participated in the Korean and Vietnam Wars.
Friday • ASI • noon

RISE
Reading Initiative for Student Excellence (RISE) Arkansas encourages a culture of reading by coordinating a statewide reading campaign with community partners, parents, and teachers to establish the importance of reading in homes, schools, and communities. A variety of resources will be available to assist parents with reading at home and to increase teachers’ depth of knowledge.
Friday • MLDC • noon
Saturday, April 29

DOG TOWN POETRY ON DEMAND
Name the subject, and Arkansas poet Karen Hayes will write about it on her frisky typewriter. Ask her to write about your passion, your purpose, or the perfect poached egg. Spend a few minutes, and she’ll produce a free poem.
Saturday • Main Library 1st floor • 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

THE GATEKEEPERS
Through extensive, intimate interviews with all seventeen living chiefs of staff and two former presidents, award-winning journalist and producer Chris Whipple pulls back the curtain on this unique fraternity, whose members have included Rahm Emanuel, Dick Cheney, Leon Panetta, and Donald Rumsfeld. Filled with shrewd analysis and never-before-reported details, The Gatekeepers offers an essential portrait of the toughest job in Washington.
Saturday • RRT • 10:00 a.m.

LOCKING UP OUR OWN
Critics have assailed the rise of mass incarceration, emphasizing its disproportionate impact on people of color. As James Forman Jr. points out, the war on crime that began in the 1970s was supported by many African American leaders in the nation’s urban centers. In Locking Up Our Own, he seeks to understand why.
Saturday • RRT • 10:00 a.m.

FROST GIRLS
“One intrepid actress with her own troubled past is driven to defy convention and take on a new and dangerous role” in Penny Richards’ An Unlenting Frost. Marie Bostwick’s latest novel, The Promise Girls, relays “a beautiful story about the ties that bind—love, laughter, memories, even secrets kept so long they become a part of the fabric of a family.”
Saturday • ASI • 10:00 a.m.

THE RAWNESS OF REALITY
Tracy Chiles McGhee, Melting the Blues, delves into complexities of identity, difficulties of racial tension, and yearnings for love and acceptance. Then, Hussein Hussein, Euphrates Dance, transports readers to a fictionalized modern Iraq and speaks about how fifteen years as a conscript in Saddam’s army informed his fiction.
Saturday • MLFR • 10:00 a.m.

VISION FOR NONES
Katherine Ozment, Grace Without God: The Search for Meaning, Purpose, and Belonging in a Secular Age, discusses the rise of the “Nones,” a rapidly growing group of religiously unaffiliated Americans (so-called because they check the box that reads, essentially, “none of the above” when asked about their faith). Ozment will discuss why an increased drift from religion is happening and what the change means for individuals, families, and communities. Then, a singular vision for a rich morality and spirituality is revealed by Ragan Sutterfield in Wendell Berry and the Given Life.
Saturday • CCC • 10:00 a.m.

ARCTIC STRUGGLE AND TRIUMPH
Through A Wretched and Precarious Situation: In Search of the Last Arctic Frontier, David Welky provides an overview of the 1913-17 Crocker Land Expedition. Welky profiles individual members of the expedition to explore issues such as what drives people to risk their lives for fame and how people respond when facing intensely stressful situations. Sponsored by the Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center.
Saturday • WS • 10:00 a.m.

NATURAL STATE PEARLS
Elizabeth Griffin Hill celebrates women’s extensive contributions to the war effort during World War I, as well as their social and political experiences, in Faithful to Our Tasks: Arkansas Women and the Great War. Shift next to fiction as Ed Bethune talks about his daring but realistic examination of love, pride, compassion, courage, and duty in A Pearl for Kizzy: A World War II Novel. Sponsored by MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History.
Saturday • MM • 10:00 a.m.

PUBLIC SCHOOL
In pursuit of the realities of American education, bestselling author Nicholson Baker signed up as a substitute teacher in a local Maine public school district. The result, Substitute: Going to School with a Thousand Kids, is a day-by-day, minute-by-minute account of one person’s joyous, harrowing, funny, frustrating, inspiring experiences in the classroom.
Saturday • RRT • 11:30 a.m.

WORLD CLASS
Israeli author Darit Rabinovych shares insights into All the Rivers, her Bernstein Award-winning book that is “a human tale of rapprochement and separation.” White tears by Hari Kunzru is a “masterful ghost story” and “an incredible portrait of obsession, music, insanity, and race.” Kunzru, a British Indian novelist and journalist of Kashmiri Pandit origin, has had his work translated into twenty-one languages.
Saturday • MLDC • 11:30 a.m.

MSTERS OF FORM
John Kessel’s The Moon and The Other is “reminiscent of Huxley’s best work, and the emphasis on gender politics puts it in dialog with the masterpieces of Le Guin, Delany, and Russ,” according to Hugo Award-winning author Kim Stanley Robinson. Kelly Link calls Juan Martinez “a master of the absurd” while Kirkus Reviews says his Best Worst American Features “twenty-four semi-existential short stories that have appeared in McSweeney’s and Selected Shorts” injecting “absurdity into everyday life and humorph into the phantasmagorical.”
Saturday • ASI • 11:30 a.m.

FRIED GREEN TAMALE
Delta Hot Tamales: history, Stories & Recipes of Southern Fried Green Tamales in a State of Wonder cover the food and culture of Mississippi and Arkansas. Writer and historian Anne Martin showcases the stories behind the traditional Delta hot tamale, as well as the countless variations of the delicacy found within the region. Impressive Arkansas Rex Nelson, known for his Arkansas Democrat-Gazette columns and his colorful storytelling, addresses the forces changing the state.
Saturday • HAM • 11:30 a.m.

FROM THE DELTA TO THE OZARKS
Saturday • WS • 11:30 a.m.

FICTION & FACT
Hear local veterans Taunya Kidd, Guy Choate, and Monica Lewis share readings of their own work and some of their favorite writing. The session also provides information on CALS’s Fiction & Fact discussion program. All three panelists have been participants in this program made possible by the National Endowment for the Humanities.
Saturday • MM • 11:30 a.m.

TAVERNS & PALACES
Danielle Chapman reads poems from her skillful Delinquent Palaces and a work in progress, The Last Descendant, which confronts the startling antebellum history of a circa 1790 tavern in middle Tennessee that has been in the family for many generations. Sponsored by Christ Episcopal Church.
Saturday • Christ Episcopal Church • 11:30 a.m.
Oprah’s Pick
“Queen Sugar delivers complex characters [and] a hint of bayou magic” in an “irresistible tale of family, community … and personal reinvention.” Hear the beguiling Natalie Baszile speak about her novel that inspired the OWN television series.

Saturday • RRT • 1:00 p.m.

Want a Laugh?
New York Times comedy critic Jason Zinoman’s Letterman: The Last Giant of Late Night is “the product of a lifetime of obsessive fandom and several years of reporting.” Through unprecedented access, Zinoman brings the comedy legend’s “ironic voice and caustic meta-humor” into focus. Stand-up comedian and actor Todd Barry appeared on Late Night, as well as Louie, The Larry Sanders Show, and The Flight of the Conchords. His Thank You for Coming to Hattiesburg offers hilarious travel essays from his time on tour through secondary markets in the U.S. (including Little Rock), Canada, and Israel.

Saturday • MLDC • 1:00 p.m.

TV or Not TV
Jazz, Art, Fame. Therese Fowler and Stephanie Storey make use of these and famous figures to tell enticing fictional stories. Z: A Novel of Zelda Fitzgerald gives a voice to the muse who lived life “in decadent, full color.” Oil and Marble is a “mesmerizing tale of the envy, ambition, and artistic genius that drove an epic rivalry” between Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, artists who worked in Florence at the same time. Both authors also have the world of television in common. Fowler’s Z is a series with Christina Ricci, and Storey is an award-winning producer of Tavis Smiley and The Writers’ Room.

Saturday • ASI • 1:00 p.m.

Freighted Loss of Inevitable Bonds
Hard Toward Home by C. D. Albin and The Loss of All Lost Things by Amina Gautier are collections of contemporary literary short stories. Using place and moments of regret and yearning, these works probe the “challenges, mysteries and inevitable bonds of home,” and “the freighted loss of children themselves.”

Saturday • MLFR • 1:00 p.m.

Erasure
In Boy Erased, Garrard Conley examines the “complex relationships between family, faith, and community” and conveys how he survived a church-supported conversion therapy program that promised to “cure” him of his homosexuality, Noah Lederman shares his relativa’s “riveting journey through repressed memory, unspeakable trauma, and the landmarks of European genocide” in A World Erased: A Grandson’s Search for His Family’s Holocaust Secrets.

Saturday • CCC • 1:00 p.m.

Perfume River
Pulitzer Prize-winning Robert Olen Butler introduces Perfume River, his novel examining family ties and the legacy of the Vietnam War through the portrait of a single north Florida family. Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Saturday • MM • 1:00 p.m.

True & False Crime
Who Killed These Girls? by Beverly Lowry recounts the murder that promised to “cure” him of his repressed memory, unspeakable problems from rotten children to the ruined landscape, all leavened by wit and the dry humor of a hot and damp climate.” Gautreaux will be joined by Michael Farris Smith, whose Desperation Road, according to Wiley Cash, “reads as if it were forged in a fire stoked by the ghosts of Carson McCullers, Larry Brown, and William Gay. Smith’s terse, muscular prose renders this novel as rich and alive as any you’ll find in contemporary fiction.”

Saturday • RRT • 2:30 p.m.

Terror Landscapes
Annie Proulx says “Tim Gautreaux’s Signalls is prime reading pleasure, rich and gritty stories of people clawing their way through the thickets of thorny problems from rotten children to the ruined landscape, all leavened by wit and the dry humor of a hot and damp climate.” Gautreaux will be joined by Michael Farris Smith, whose Desperation Road, according to Wiley Cash, “reads as if it were forged in a fire stoked by the ghosts of Carson McCullers, Larry Brown, and William Gay. Smith’s terse, muscular prose renders this novel as rich and alive as any you’ll find in contemporary fiction.”

Saturday • RRT • 2:30 p.m.

Objects of Devotion
The Smithsonian’s first curator of religion in more than a century, Peter Manseau, Objects of Devotion: Religion in Early America, describes the objects, images, and people who shaped the role of religion in early American life. He will also provide an overview of religion’s new place in the Institution’s National Museum of American History, sponsored by Friends of Central Arkansas Libraries (FOCAL).

Saturday • MLDC • 2:30 p.m.

Power-Houses
Cara Brookins’s Rise: How a House Built a Family is “the magnificent true story of a woman who, after losing everything, found a way to heal and build a new life.” A $500 House in Detroit is Drew Philp’s memoir about the labor he did on his home, “fixing it up nail by nail and, in the process, participating in the grassroots rebirth of the city itself.”

Saturday • ASI • 2:30 p.m.

Debut Fiction
When the Sea of Santiago appears in a cow pasture in Arkansas, it marks A. Z. McKinney’s chance to make history as an oceanographer. Enjoy her trek as she navigates her understanding of self, the Sea, and her oceanic destiny in Alexandra Teague’s The Principles Behind Flotation. Then, follow Edie, who “works for the Elysian Society, a private service that allows grieving clients to reconnect with lost loved ones,” in The Possessions, a “sensuous, scary, and utterly thrilling” yarn by Sara Flannery Murphy.

Saturday • WS • 2:30 p.m.

Warrior Writers
Both of these searing novels are recommended by former Fest authors. Regarding We Come to Our Senses, Padgett Powell says “For once ‘Support Our Troops’ is not political pablum. One might say that in Odie Lindsey’s care ‘Support Our Troops’ is a literary imperative.” Roy Scranton’s War Porn “is dire, savage, and brilliant, a simmering fever-dream of a novel that’s as pure and true in its vision of the long war as anything I’ve read,” according to Ben Fountain. Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Saturday • MM • 2:30 p.m.

Books on Music
Rural Records
American Epic is a multi-media, multi-year project exploring the rural recording boom of the 1920s and how it forever changed America’s musical culture. The filmmakers spent ten years traveling the United States, interviewing families of early recording artists and assembling a documentary that will be broadcast by PBS and the BBC in May 2017. The accompanying book, which Elijah Wald helped assemble with Bernard MacMahon and Allison McGourty, mixes new archival interviews with a superb collection of photographs, documents, and ephemera, much of it previously unpublished.

Saturday • HAM • 2:30 p.m.

Beatledream
Bestselling author and beloved Rolling Stone scribe Rob Sheffield turns his romantic heart and observant eye toward the biggest rock band of all time. In Dreaming the Beatles, he celebrates and examines their significance to those of us who have never known a world without them.

Saturday • RRT • 4:00 p.m.
WARREN, ARKANSAS, August 13, 2023 – Inherited Disorders tells this elemental story in one hundred and seventeen variations.” Adam Ehrlich Sachs’s Stories, Parables & Problems are “true and absurd” and very funny. They are also highly recommended by Fest favorite Kevin Brockmeier, who will add to the bliss with a reading of his own new short fiction. Saturday • MLDC • 4:00 p.m.

AS FRESH AS TOMORROW
DIG, A Horse with Holes in It. Conversations In Color, and Chord Box are provocative poetry collections covering history, resilience, music, love, pain, spiritual confusion, and even the demigods of a secret society that involves possession and spirit weddings. Quite simply, these poems by Bryan Borland, Greg Brownnderville, Marquese McFerguson, and Elizabeth Lindsey Rogers are “as fresh as tomorrow.”

HIGH BODY COUNT
Owen Laukannen’s The Forgotten Girls, the sixth in his Stevens/Windermere series, is “an eerie, suspenseful hunt” mixing “great storytelling with deep compassion for the underdog.” CB McKenzie’s literary mysteries about living on the margins include Bad Country and have been called “master classes in sense of place.” Shaun Harris’s The Hemingway Thief is a “refreshing and fun” debut that “seamlessly blend[s] action, pop-culture savvy, and a true-life literary mystery.”

A STARRY MOSAIC
With “an untamed and almost feral sense of creativity,” Kanishk Tharoor delivers extraordinariness enchanting world-spanning tales in Swimmer Among the Stars. “Drawing equally from ancient history and current events” Tharoor addresses “environmental collapse and cultural appropriation” through the last speaker of a language, a pachyderm, its driver, a princess, and Genghis Khan’s army. Chaneille Benz’s stories in The Man Who Shot Out My Eye Is Dead also “crisscross through time and space” with “true prose strangeness, an exuberant sense of play, and tremendous heart” to create “a complex mosaic of humanity.”

WHEREVER YOU GO
In Wherever You Go, There They Are, the amusing Annabelle Gurwitch explores family mythology, her immigrant southern Jewish clan, and an inheritance (known as Massacre Island) of an ill-fated sliver of sand disappearing due to climate change. She discusses theater folk, secular humanists, Furries, a UFO cult, corporations using sisterhood as a recruiting tool, the ladies who brunch at Tel Aviv Gardens Retirement Home in Miami, and the common ground Gurwitch finds with her Syrian Uber driver’s kin. Sponsored by Friends of Central Arkansas Libraries (FOCAL). Saturday • RRT • 7:00 p.m.

Perfect Duo
The expert work in the new novels by Katie Kitamura and Kevin Wilson has been lauded with superlatives. “Told in exquisite prose, with intoxicating emotional velocity, A Separation tells the story of a marriage’s end, the gulf that divides us from the inner lives of others, and the narrative we invent to mask our true selves.” In Perfect Little World, which is “written with the same compassion and charm that won over legions of readers” of The Family Fang, Kevin Wilson shows us with grace and humor that the best families are the ones we make for ourselves. Saturday • MLDC • 5:30 p.m.

Books from all authors are available on the first floor of the Main Library. Friday: 11:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and 6:30-9:00 p.m. Saturday: 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

From Frank...

SO IMPOLITE
What if we applied tell-it-like-it-is honesty to grown-up issues? In Impolite Conversations: On Race, Politics, Sex, Money, and Religion, journalist Cora Daniels and cultural anthropologist John L. Jackson Jr. openly discuss five “third-rail” topics—from multiracial identities to celebrity worship to hyper-masculinity among black boys—and open the stage for honest discussions about important and timely concerns, offering an entertaining and thought-provoking example of how to bridge the gap between honest talk and civil discourse. Sponsored by KUAR FM89.1. Saturday • RRT • 5:30 p.m.

...to Funny

Impolite Conversations on Race, Politics, Sex, Money, and Religion
Cora Daniels and John L. Jackson, Jr.
Saturday Family Sessions

Main Library

**Space Photo Booth**
Capture the orbit of your little cosmonaut in this super-galactic photo booth.
Saturday • ML3 • 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**Astro Cat Craft**
These stellar crafts based around Professor Astro Cat’s world will channel the energy of your rocket-fueled tyke.
Saturday • ML3 • 10:30 a.m.

**Astro Cat Author**
Why is the sky blue? How do birds know north from south? How do we see colors? Author Dominic Walliman, Professor Astro Cat’s Atomic Adventure, addresses these and additional audience questions in this introduction to the fascinating world of physics. Sponsored by the Museum of Discovery.
Saturday • ML3 • 11:00 a.m.

**From Krakow to Krypton**
Pop culture historian Arie Kaplan, From Krakow to Krypton, gives a jaunty trip through the history of comics. Sponsored by Henderson State University.
Saturday • Level 4 • 11:00 a.m.

**Stormtrooper Training**
The Official Stormtrooper Training Manual comes complete with a handbook, fill-ins, and a minifigure. Meet the author, Arie Kaplan, and hear more about this advanced guide to the galaxy. 
Sponsored by Henderson State University.
Saturday • ML3 • 2:00 p.m.

**LEGO Build**
Snap together a whole universe or keep it simple with a small-scale project. Warning—this one is for the creative.
Saturday • ML3 • 2:30 p.m.

**Teen Poetry Competition**
Finalists from CALS branch competitions vie for a grand prize in this jam-packed poetically engaging event.
Saturday • Level 4 • 3:00 p.m.

Hillary Rodham Clinton Children’s Library & Learning Center

**Fresh2You Mobile Farmers Market**
Hop on the bus to browse and purchase a delicious selection of fresh fruits and vegetables. The first 100 kids get $2 in tokens to use.
Saturday • HRC • 9:30 a.m.-noon

**Book Fair**
Make sure to wander through the book fair and select a few free books to continue your reading adventures at home.
Saturday • HRC • 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**Seussographs**
Have your photo taken with The Cat in the Hat and decorate a frame for your photo souvenir.
Saturday • HRC • 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**The Kinders**
Kids and parents alike will enjoy this program of original, interactive children’s music.
Saturday • HRC • 10:30 a.m.

**Snacitivity**
Enter the Dragon Den and decorate a scale to help build a life-sized dragon, plus craft your own fire-breathing dragon to take home. Then have a healthy snack before creating your own book and listening to storytellers.
Saturday • HRC • 11:00 a.m.-noon and 1:00-3:00 p.m.

**The Reluctant Dragon**
A dragon is “a scourge and a pest and a baneful monster.” So, what’s a boy to do when one moves into the hills above his home? Pay the beast a visit, of course. In this live performance by the Arkansas Arts Center’s Tell A Tale Troupe, instead of a monster the boy finds a civilized, thoughtful, poetry-reading new friend.
Saturday • HRC • noon

**Puppet Storytime**
Taylor Dugan brings the Argentinean folktale The Flamingo’s Stockings to life.
Saturday • HRC • 1:00 p.m.

**Animal Yoga**
Get ready to stretch, breathe, and roar during a yoga session that focuses on animal poses that get you in touch with your animal instincts.
Saturday • HRC • 1:00 p.m.

**Floyd Cooper**
Children’s author/illustrator Floyd Cooper, winner of three Coretta Scott King Honors, provides a painting demonstration of his subtractive illustration process and inspires through audience participation in thrilling rounds of the Scribble Game. Sponsored by the Clinton Presidential Center, Gibbs Elementary, Rockefeller Elementary, and Hearne Fine Art.
Saturday • HRC • 1:30 p.m.

**Oh, The Places You’ll Go**
Little Readers Rock is a Junior League of Little Rock campaign that aims to improve the proficiency of young readers in our community. The ratio of books to children in targeted low income households in Arkansas is one book per 300 children. This campaign strives to create excitement for reading early on by getting books into the hands and homes of children. Little Readers Rock is committed to helping children experience all the places reading can take them.

**How to See the Sun**
Members of the Central Arkansas Astronomical Society demonstrate how to safely view the sun and the upcoming solar eclipse with special telescopes and eclipse glasses.
Saturday • ML3 • 11:30 a.m.

**Improvise**
Experience the wit and prowess of the Parkview Improv Troupe as they perform literature-inspired games for audiences of all ages. Enjoy the fun of synonym-inspired scenes, stories using random lines from books, and puns galore. For all ages.
Saturday • Level 4 • 1:00 p.m.

**LEGO Star Wars**
Feast your eyes on this cool Star Wars-related LEGO display from ArkLUG.
Saturday • ML3 • 1:00-4:00 p.m.

**Robin Barone**
Using adventure travel to teach children about the world, author Robin Barone delights kids. Little Robin’s U.S. travels are captured in the vibrant book Where is Robin? USA.
Saturday • HRC • 2:00 p.m.

**Where Is Robin? Scavenger Hunt**
Washington D.C. New Orleans, Los Angeles, Little Robin goes everywhere. Join in this fun scavenger hunt that takes patrons through the library and across the grounds as they search for Robin. The first clue will be in the theater.
Saturday • HRC • 2:30 p.m.

**The Festival is pleased to partner with the Junior League of Little Rock for the Saturday, April 29, events at the Hillary Rodham Clinton Children’s Library & Learning Center.**

**Little Readers Rock**
Junior League of Little Rock
SCANDALOUS ADMISSION!
BY JUDGE VIC FLEMING

ACROSS
1. Roll of the ___
5. “The Teenage Witch”
12. Film format for “Everest”
13. Crosby or Damone
14. Start of a quotation by Dr. Seuss
16. “You were ___ to think of me!”
17. One, in Germany
18. “___ OF DOG”
20. Moroccan hat
23. It loops the Loop
26. ___’s (Little Rock brewpub and pizzeria)
27. Part 2 of the quotation
30. Biblical man who sired a son at 90, then lived to be 905
31. Hangs out
32. Radical ’60s campus grp.
33. “___ in St. Louis”
35. Pt. of many an e-mail address
36. Little Rock’s River ___ District
40. End of the quotation
43. “Come on in!”
44. Film ___
45. Broadway backdrops
46. Pace

DOWN
1. Dahs’ counterparts
2. Text lingo for “personally speaking”
3. City near Le Havre
4. Bookplate inscription
5. “I’m not paid enough to do this!”
6. Parseghian of Notre Dame football fame
7. Ali or Foreman
8. Arkansas business guru ___ Brock
9. Part of, as a conspiracy
10. One anagram?
11. Noah creation
15. Big drink?
19. Anoint, old-style
20. Bona ___
21. ___’acte (break in a show)
22. Place run by Little Rock’s Susan Altrui, and others
23. Beaters in a lea
24. Hit the runway
25. General ___ Chicken
26. ___ Day (November 11)
28. Just a few
29. Yankee Joe’s nickname
33. Dunderhead
34. Run off to get hitched
35. Semicircular church part
36. Falco or Brickell
38. Falco or Brickell
39. Ballfield protector
40. Twice, musically
41. And more (abbr.)
42. MPH middle

12. 13
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## Thursday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main Library Darragh Center</strong></td>
<td>noon</td>
<td><strong>ADD A PINCH</strong>&lt;br&gt;Robyn Stone, Add A Pinch</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mosaic Templars Cultural Center</strong></td>
<td>noon</td>
<td><strong>RIGHT TO WRITE</strong>&lt;br&gt;Marquese McFerguson, Conversations In Color</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>300 Third Tower 300 3rd Street</strong></td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>EASIER, FASTER, FRESHER</strong>&lt;br&gt;Robyn Stone, Add A Pinch</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Main Library Level 4</strong></td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>HISTORY IS ALL YOU LEFT ME, YOU LITTLE SECRET KEEPER, BUT THEN I CAME BACK</strong>&lt;br&gt;Estelle Laure, But Then I Came Back&lt;br&gt;Trenton Lee Stewart, The Secret Keepers&lt;br&gt;Adam Silvera, History Is All You Left Me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Esse Purse Museum</strong></td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>UNMENTIONABLE</strong>&lt;br&gt;Theresa Onelli, Unmentionable</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ron Robinson Theater</strong></td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>CLASSIC IN CONTEXT: LOUIA</strong>&lt;br&gt;Alex Beam, The Fedul&lt;br&gt;8:00 p.m. <strong>LOLITA</strong>&lt;br&gt;(film)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Choctaw Station</strong></td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>WASHINGTON’S WARNING</strong>&lt;br&gt;John Avlon, Washington’s Farewell</td>
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## Friday

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Main Library 1st Floor</strong></td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>BOOK CENTRAL: BOOKS FROM EVERY LITFEST AUTHOR</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Museum of Discovery</strong></td>
<td>9:30 a.m. &amp; 12:15 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>THE MAYOR’S DAY: SCIENCE</strong>&lt;br&gt;Dominic Wallman, Professor Astro Cat’s Atomic Adventure&lt;br&gt;Kevin Delany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clinton Presidential Center</strong></td>
<td>9:30 a.m. &amp; 12:15 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>THE MAYOR’S DAY: READING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Floyd Cooper, Frederick Douglass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arkansas Studies Institute (ASI)</strong></td>
<td>noon</td>
<td><strong>WAR STORIES</strong>&lt;br&gt;Floyd Cooper, Frederick Douglass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main Library Darragh Center</strong></td>
<td>noon</td>
<td><strong>RISE (READING INITIATIVE FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hearne Fine Art</strong></td>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>OFF THE PAGE</strong>&lt;br&gt;Floyd Cooper, art exhibition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main Library 5th Floor</strong></td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>AUTHOR! AUTHOR!</strong></td>
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## Saturday

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main Library 1st Floor (ML1)</strong></td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>LOCKING UP OUR OWN</strong>&lt;br&gt;James Forman Jr., Locking Up Our Own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main Library Darragh Center (MLDC)</strong></td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>THE ROWNESS OF REALITY</strong>&lt;br&gt;Tracy Chiles McGhee, Melting the Blues&lt;br&gt;Ussein Hussein, Euphrafes Dance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main Library Fibouger Room (MLFR)</strong></td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>FROM KRAKOW TO KRYPTON</strong>&lt;br&gt;Arie Kaplan, From Krakow to Krypton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main Library Youth Services, 3rd Floor (ML3)</strong></td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>ASTRO CAT CRAFT</strong>&lt;br&gt;Dominic Wallman, Professor Astro Cat’s Atomic Adventure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ron Robinson Theater (RTT)</strong></td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>THE GATEKEEPERS</strong>&lt;br&gt;Chris Whipple, The Gatekeepers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arkansas Studies Institute Room 124 (ASI)</strong></td>
<td>noon</td>
<td><strong>VISION FOR NONES</strong>&lt;br&gt;Katherine Ozmens, Grace Without God&lt;br&gt;Ragan Sutterfield, Wendell Berry and the Given Life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Historic Arkansas Museum (HAM)</strong></td>
<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>FRIED GREEN TAMALES</strong>&lt;br&gt;Anna Martin, Delta Hat Tamales&lt;br&gt;Rex Nelson, Southern Fried</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center (WS)</strong></td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>ARTIC STRUGGLE &amp; TRIUMPH</strong>&lt;br&gt;David Welky, A Wretched and Precarious Situation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History (MM)</strong></td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>FROM THE DELTA TO THE OZARKS</strong>&lt;br&gt;Matthew D. Moran, Exploring the Big Woods&lt;br&gt;Jim Warnock, The Ozarks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Christ Episcopal Church</strong></td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>FRIED GREEN TAMALES</strong>&lt;br&gt;Anna Martin, Delta Hat Tamales&lt;br&gt;Rex Nelson, Southern Fried</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hillary Rodham Clinton Children’s Library &amp; Learning Center (HRC)</strong></td>
<td>noon</td>
<td><strong>PICTURE BOOK FAIR &amp; SEUSSOGRAPHS</strong>&lt;br&gt;10:30 a.m. The Kinders in Concert&lt;br&gt;11:00 a.m. Snacktivity</td>
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## Sunday

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Jewish Food Festival</strong></td>
<td>10:45 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>FOOD’S JOYS &amp; LABORS</strong>&lt;br&gt;Dori Rabinyn, All the Rivers</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Choctaw Station</strong></td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>WORDPLAY</strong>&lt;br&gt;Deb Amlen, New York Times Wordplay&lt;br&gt;2:00 p.m. <strong>ARKANSAS PUZZLE DAY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rebel Kettle Brewing</strong></td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>SPIRITS REBELLIOUS</strong>&lt;br&gt;multiple Arkansas authors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main Library Darragh Center</strong></td>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>FIERCE URGENCY</strong>&lt;br&gt;Wendell L. Griffin, The Fierce Urgency of Prophetic Hope&lt;br&gt;3:00 p.m. <strong>EQUINOX</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ron Robinson Theater</strong></td>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>RAIN IN A DRY LAND</strong>&lt;br&gt;litary Action film</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The Root Café</strong></td>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>LET THEM EAT PIE</strong>&lt;br&gt;Pie contest</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 P.M.</td>
<td>2:30 P.M.</td>
<td>4:00 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BOOK CENTRAL: BOOKS FROM EVERY LITFEST AUTHOR, PLUS EVENT T-SHIRTS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WANT A LAUGH</strong></td>
<td><strong>OBJECTS OF DEVOITION</strong></td>
<td><strong>DAZZLING SHORTS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Todd Barry, <em>Thank You for Coming to Hattiesburg</em></td>
<td>Peter Manseau, <em>Objects of Devotion</em></td>
<td>Kevin Brockmeier, new fiction</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FREIGHTED LOSS OF INEVITABLE BONDS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Amina Aliberti, <em>The Loss of All Last Things</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>C. D. Albin, <em>Hard Toward Home</em></td>
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<td><strong>OTO BOOTH</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LEGO BUILD</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2:00 P.M. STORMTROOPER TRAINING</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Arie Kaplan, <em>The Official Stormtrooper Training Manual</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LEGO STAR WARS EXHIBIT</strong></td>
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<td><strong>IMPROVISE</strong></td>
<td><strong>TERSE LANDSCAPES</strong></td>
<td><strong>BEATLEDREAM</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TV OR NOT TV</strong></td>
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<td>Therese Anne Fowler, Z</td>
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<td>Stephanie Storey, <em>Oil and Marble</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>POWER-HOUSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>AS FRESH AS TOMORROW (until 5:15)</strong></td>
<td><strong>HIGH BODY COUNT (until 5:15)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cara Brookins, <em>Rise</em></td>
<td>Bryan Borland, <em>DIG</em></td>
<td>Shaun Harris, <em>The Hemingway Thief</em></td>
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<td>Marquese McFerguson, <em>Conversations In Color</em></td>
<td>CB McKenzie, <em>Burn What Will Burn</em></td>
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<td>Elizabeth Lindsey Rogers, <em>Chord Box</em></td>
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<td><strong>ERASURE</strong></td>
<td><strong>FOREST-TO-TABLE</strong></td>
<td><strong>A STARRY MOSAIC</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Noah Lederman, <em>A World Erased</em></td>
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<td>Kanishk Tharoor, <em>Swimmer Among the Stars</em></td>
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<td><strong>TRUE &amp; FALSE CRIME</strong></td>
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<td>Roger Glasgow, <em>Dawn and Dirty Down South</em></td>
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<td>Beverly Lowry, <em>Who Killed These Girls?</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RURAL RECORDS</strong></td>
<td><strong>DEBUT FICTION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Elijah Wald, <em>American Epic</em></td>
<td>Sara Flannery Murphy, <em>The Possessions</em></td>
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<td><strong>IMAGE/WORD/SEQUENCE</strong></td>
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<td>Thi Bui, <em>The Best We Could Do</em></td>
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<td><strong>PERFUME RIVER</strong></td>
<td><strong>WARRIOR WRITERS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Olen Butler, <em>Perfume River</em></td>
<td>Odie Lindsey, <em>We Come to Our Senses</em></td>
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<td>Roy Scranton, <em>War Porn</em></td>
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<td><strong>1:00-3:00 P.M. SNACKTIVITY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PUPPET STORYTIME &amp; ANIMAL YOGA</strong></td>
<td><strong>WHERE IS ROBIN?</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Taylor Dugan</td>
<td>Robin Barone, <em>Where is Robin? USA</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1:30 P.M. AUTHOR &amp; ILLUSTRATOR</strong></td>
<td><strong>WHERE IS ROBIN? SCAVENGER HUNT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Floyd Cooper, <em>The Ring Bearer</em></td>
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</table>
C.D. Albin is the author of the short-story collection Hard Toward Home. Born and raised in West Plains, MO, he has taught for many years at Missouri State University-West Plains, where he founded and edits Elder Mountain: A Journal of Ozarks Studies. His work has appeared in periodicals including Arkansas Review, Harvard Review, and Slant. Saturday • MLFR • 1:00 p.m.

Deb Amlen is the author and editor of “Wordplay,” the crossword column of the New York Times. Amlen has also been a senior columnist for David Pogue’s Yahoo! Tech, and her work has appeared in the Washington Post and the Los Angeles Times. Sponsored by the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service. Sunday • Choctaw Station • 1:00 p.m.

Celia Anderson is a TEDx speaker who has traveled to hundreds of conferences and events internationally delivering messages of hope and wisdom. Her original schoolwide presentation G.A.M.E.T.I.M.E. motivates students to “get in the game of life.” Her third book, 100 Things to Do in Little Rock Before You Die. Saturday • WS • 4:00 p.m.

John Avlon is the editor-in-chief and managing director of The Daily Beast and a CNN political analyst. He is author of the new book Washington’s Farewell: The Founding Father’s Warning to Future Generations. Sponsored by the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service. Thursday • Choctaw Station • 7:00 p.m.

Nicholson Baker is the author of ten novels and six works of nonfiction, including Subtlety: Going to School with a Thousand Kids. He has received a National Book Critics Circle Award, a James Madison Freedom of Information Award, the Hermann Hesse Prize, and the Katherine Anne Porter Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Saturday • RRT • 11:30 a.m.

Robin Barone was born and raised in Philadelphia. She has lived in New York, Washington D.C., Buenos Aires, Paris, and Singapore in addition to visiting over 50 countries. Where is Robin? USA is Barone’s adventure travel book for kids. Saturday • HRC • 2:00 p.m.

Todd Barry is a stand-up comedian and an actor who has appeared on The Late Show with David Letterman. He has had three Comedy Central specials, and his fourth, The Crowd Work Tour (produced by Louis C.K.), is currently on Netflix. In addition to TV and movie acting, Barry has written his first book, Thank You for Not Killing Me. Saturday • MLDC • 1:00 p.m.

Kevin Brockmeier has participated in the Arkansas Literary Festival since its inception. He has published eight books, mainly fiction, including The Brief History of the Dead and The Illumination. He teaches frequently at the Iowa Writers’ Workshop but otherwise lives in Little Rock, AR, where he was raised. Saturday • MLDC • 4:00 p.m.

Bryan Borland is the author of DIG, Less Fortunate Pirates, and My Life as Adam, and the founding publisher of Sibling Rivalry Press. A 2015 Lambda Fellow in Poetry, Borland was also the recipient of a 2016 Judith A. Markowitz Emerging Writer Award from the Lambda Literary Foundation. Saturday • MM • 10:00 a.m.

Alex Beam is an opinion page columnist for The Boston Globe. He has published two novels, three previous works of nonfiction—two of them New York Times Notable Books of the Year—and now The Feud: Vladimir Nabokov, Edmund Wilson, and the End of a Beautiful Friendship. Beam also contributes to Architecture Boston magazine. Thursday • RRT • 6:30 p.m.

Chanelle Beníz is the author of The Man Who Shot Out My Eye Is Dead, The American Reader, Granita.com. Electric Literature, and Fence have featured her fiction, and she is the recipient of an O. Henry Prize. She received her BFA in acting from Boston University and her MFA from Syracuse University. Saturday • HAM • 4:00 p.m.

Ed Bethune was born in the Ozarks. He was a special agent of the FBI in Newark, NJ, during the race riots of 1967. As a trial lawyer, he has prosecuted and defended many high-profile cases. In 1978 he won a seat in Congress. His latest book is A Pearl for Kizzy. Sponsored by the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History. Saturday • MM • 10:00 a.m.

John Avlon is the editor-in-chief and managing director of The Daily Beast and a CNN political analyst. He is author of the new book Washington’s Farewell: The Founding Father’s Warning to Future Generations. Sponsored by the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service. Thursday • Choctaw Station • 7:00 p.m.

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Cora Daniels is an award-winning journalist and the author of Impolite Conversations. Her previous books include Ghettoization and Black Power Inc. She was a longtime staff writer for Fortune magazine. Her work has also been published in The New York Times Magazine: Essence; and Q. The Oprah Magazine. Sponsored by KUAR FM 89.1.

Saturday • RRT • 5:30 p.m.

Kevin Delaney performs Awesome Science at Arkansas's Museum of Discovery, where he helped develop the Science After Dark program. He is the resident science presenter on The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon. Delaney has worked as a playwright, a performer, and an educator.

Friday • MOD • 9:30 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.

Taylor Dugan taught Spanish to elementary school students in the North Little Rock School District using music, stories, and puppets. Now he is a deputy prosecutor for the 22nd Judicial District.

Saturday • HRC • 1:00 p.m.


Saturday • MLDC • 10:00 a.m.

Annabelle Gurwitch is an actress and author of Wherever You Go, There They Are. She is also author of the New York Times bestseller and Thurber Prize finalist! See You Made an Effort. Gurwitch gained a loyal following during her years as a co-host on Dinner & a Movie (TBS) and as a commentator on NPR. Sponsored by Friends of Central Arkansas Libraries.

Saturday • RRT • 7:00 p.m.

Therese Anne Fowler is the author of New York Times bestseller Z: A Novel of Zelda Fitzgerald, which was adapted into an Amazon television series starring Christina Ricci. A proud member of Phi Beta Kappa and PEN America, she lives in Raleigh, NC, with author and professor John Kessel and their three endearing but incorrigible cats.

Saturday • ASI • 1:00 p.m.

Amina Gautier is the author of At-Risk, Now We Will Be Happy, and The Loss of All Lost Things. These short-story collections have garnered the Flannery O'Connor Award, the First Horizon Award, the Eric Hoffer Legacy Fiction Award, and the International Latino Book Award. Sponsored by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Department of English.

Saturday • MLFR • 1:00 p.m.

Tim Gautreaux is the author of three novels and three collections of short stories, including Signals: New and Selected Stories. His fiction has appeared in The New Yorker, Atlantic Monthly, Harpers, GQ, Best American Short Stories, and New Stories from the South, as well as in university textbooks and O. Henry Prize Stories.

Saturday • RRT • 2:30 p.m.

Roger Glasgow was raised on a small farm near Nashville, AR. A former deputy attorney general, he has enjoyed a successful career of more than 40 years with the Little Rock firm of Wright, Lindsey & Jennings. Glasgow writes about being framed in Down and Dirty Down South: Politics and the Art of Revenge.

Saturday • HAM • 1:00 p.m.

Michal Hiblens is the author of Rock Island Railroad in Arkansas. He has spent nearly 30 years working as a journalist for radio stations around the country, CBS News, and the Miami Herald. Hiblens is currently the general manager of Little Rock NPR station KUAR and has long had a passion for railroad history.

Saturday • WS • 4:00 p.m.

Elizabeth Griffin Hill, author of Faithful to Our Tasks: Arkansas’s Women and the Great War, is a meticulous researcher into Arkansas’s archives and a cheerleader for our foremothers. Her goal is to add to the scholarship and to educate the state’s women, particularly through the Arkansas Women’s History Institute.

Saturday • MM • 1:00 a.m.

Hussein Hussein, a native of Nasiriyah, Iraq, immigrated to the U.S. after earning his BS degree at Baghdad University. He returned to Iraq to visit his dying mother and was arrested, pressed into Saddam Hussein’s “People’s Army,” and treated like a slave for fifteen years. He will speak about his new work, Euphrates Dance.

Saturday • MLFR • 10:00 a.m.

John L. Jackson Jr. is dean of the School of Social Policy & Practice at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of Harlemworld, Real Black, Racial Paranoia, and Impolite Conversations, co-written with Cora Daniels. He is also editor of Penn’s Social Policy and Social Justice. Sponsored by KUAR FM 89.1.

Saturday • RRT • 5:30 p.m.

Annabelle Gurwitch is an actress and author of Wherever You Go, There They Are. She is also author of the New York Times bestseller and Thurber Prize finalist! See You Made an Effort. Gurwitch gained a loyal following during her years as a co-host on Dinner & a Movie (TBS) and as a commentator on NPR. Sponsored by Friends of Central Arkansas Libraries.

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Michael Hiblens is the author of Rock Island Railroad in Arkansas. He has spent nearly 30 years working as a journalist for radio stations around the country, CBS News, and the Miami Herald. Hiblens is currently the general manager of Little Rock NPR station KUAR and has long had a passion for railroad history.

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Saturday • MM • 1:00 a.m.
Estelle Laure is a Vonnegut worshiper who believes in love, magic, and the power of facing hard truths. She is the author of But Then I Came Back and This Raging Light. Laure has a BA in theatre arts and an MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts. She lives in Taos, NM, with her children.

Saturday • CCC • 4:00 p.m.

Owen Laukkanen spent three years reporting on the world of professional poker before turning to fiction. His first novel, The Professionals, was nominated for multiple writing honors, including the international Thriller Writers’ Thriller Award for best first novel. His latest is The Forgotten Girls. Laukkanen lives in Vancouver, Canada.

Saturday • CCC • 4:00 p.m.

Juan Martinez was born in Bucaramanga, Colombia, and has since lived in Orlando, FL, and Las Vegas, NV. He now lives in Chicago where he is an assistant professor at Northwestern University. His work has appeared in Glimmer Train, McSweeney’s, Ecotone, Hulacche, and TriQuarterly. His recent story collection is Best Worst American.

Saturday • ASI • 11:30 a.m.

Marquese McFerguson is a writer, scholar, performing artist, and founder of Art Can Change The World. He is the primary author of Conversations In Color: Poetry, Prose and Paintings, a poetic and visual journey through the beauty and struggle of the American Civil Rights Movement.

Thursday • MTCC • noon
Saturday • ASI • 4:00 p.m.

Katherine Ozment is the author of Grace Without God: The Search for Meaning, Purpose, and Belonging in a Secular Age. She is an award-winning journalist who has worked in publishing for more than twenty-five years, including as a senior editor for National Geographic.

Saturday • CCC • 10:00 a.m.


Thursday • Esse Purse Museum • 6:30 p.m.

Noah Lebedman is the author of the memoir A World Erased: A Grandson’s Search for His Family’s Holocaust Secrets. His writing has been featured in The Economist, The Boston Globe, the Washington Post, the Miami Herald, Slate, Salon, The New Republic, Tablet Magazine, the Jerusalem Post and elsewhere. A veteran, his related story collection is We Come to Our Senses. Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Saturday • MM • 2:30 p.m.

Tracy Chiles McGhee wrote Melting the Blues. She is the winner of the 2016 Jessie Redmon Fauset Book Award in the category of First Fiction and received an honorable mention in the 2016 Writer’s Digest Self-Published Book Awards. She graduated from Georgetown University and currently lives in Washington, D.C.

Saturday • MLFR • 10:00 a.m.

Drew Philp is the author of A $500 House in Detroit: Rebuilding an Abandoned Home and An American City. His work has been published both nationally and internationally and has appeared in publications including BuzzFeed, the Guardian, and the Detroit Free Press. He lives in Detroit with his dog, Gratiot.

Saturday • ASI • 2:30 p.m.

Odie Lindsey’s writing appears in Best American Short Stories, Iowa Review, Guernica, Electric Literature, Forty Stories: New Writing from Harper Perennial, Fourteen Hills, and elsewhere. A veteran, his related story collection is We Come to Our Senses. Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Saturday • CCC • 1:00 p.m.

Deirdre Spain is the author of The Last Great Forest of the Arkansas Delta: Exploring the Big Woods: A Guide to the Last Great Forest of the Arkansas Delta. She is a Vonnegut worshiper who believes in love, magic, and the power of facing hard truths. She is the author of But Then I Came Back and This Raging Light. Laure has a BA in theatre arts and an MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts. She lives in Taos, NM, with her children.

Saturday • CCC • 4:00 p.m.

CB McKenzie is a graduate of Arkansas Tech University and the University of Arkansas. His first novel, Bad Country, won the Spur Award from Western Writers of America for Best Novel and was short-listed for an Edgar and a Shamus. Burn What Will Burn is set in Arkansas.

Saturday • ASI • 11:30 a.m.

Ian Pukayastha is the author of Truffle Boy: My Unexpected Journey Through the Exotic Food Underground and the creator and owner of Regalis Foods. He lives in New York City and works with more than 300 of North America’s finest chefs.

Saturday • CCC • 2:30 p.m.

Beverly Lowry is the author of Who Killed These Girls? She has written six novels and three previous works of nonfiction. Her writing has appeared in The New York Times, the Boston Globe, The New Yorker, Vanity Fair, and Rolling Stone. She has received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation.

Saturday • HAM • 1:00 p.m.

Matthew D. Moran is a professor at Hendrix College. His scientific publications include work on grassland ecology, plant-animal interactions, paleoecology of the Pleistocene, and conservation biology. His latest work is Exploring the Big Woods: A Guide to the Last Great Forest of the Arkansas Delta.

Saturday • WS • 11:30 a.m.

Dori Rabkyn’s novel All the Rivers was banned in Israel by the Ministry of Education. Her previous novels, Persian Brides and A Strand of a Thousand Pearls, were both international bestsellers. Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Arkansas, Hendrix College Project Penicils Program, and the Consulate General of Israel to the Southwest.

Saturday • MLDC • 11:30 a.m.

Sunday • Jewish Food Festival • 10:45 a.m.


Saturday • MLDC • 2:30 p.m.

Anne Martin is the author of Delta Hot Tamales: History, Stories & Recipes, chronicling the delicious history of this beloved food of the Arkansas and Mississippi Delta. She grew up in the middle of the hot-tamales epicenter: Greenville, MS. Martin, an award-winning journalist and writer, lives on a farm in Rosedale, MS.

Saturday • HAM • 11:30 a.m.

Rex Nelson, author of Southern Fried: Going Whole Hog in a State of Wonder, is the director of corporate community relations for Simmons First National Corp. He writes a weekly column for the Arkansas Democrat Gazette and speaks widely on Southern history and culture. Sponsored by the Department of Arkansas Heritage.

Saturday • HAM • 11:30 a.m.

Penelope Richards has penned more than 40 books for Silhouette, Harlequin, and Harper Paperbacks. Her books have made various bestseller lists and received several industry awards. Recent releases include Wolf Creek Wife and An Untimely Frost, the first Lilly Long historical mystery.

Saturday • ASI • 10:00 a.m.

Elizabeth Lindsey Rogers, poet and nonfiction writer, is the author of Chord Box, finalist for the Lambda Literary Award. Her poems and essays appear in The Missouri Review, The Boston Review, The Rumpus, and many other journals. A former Kenyon Review Fellow, she is currently the Murphy Visiting Fellow at Hendrix College.

Saturday • ASI • 4:00 p.m.
Adams Ehrlich Sacks studied atmospheric science at Harvard, where he wrote for The Harvard Lampoon. His fiction has appeared in The New Yorker, n+1, and Harper’s, among other places. Inherited Disorders is his first book.

Saturday • MLDC • 4:00 p.m.

Roy Scranton is the author of Learning to Die in the Anthropocene and the novel War Porn. He teaches at the University of Notre Dame. Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Saturday • RRT • 4:00 p.m.

Raglan Sutterfield is the author of Wendell Berry and the Given Life; This Is My Body: From Obesity to Ironman, My Journey into the True Meaning of Flesh, Spirit and Deeper Faith; and Cultivating the Earth. How the Soil Might Save Us. He is an ordained priest in the Episcopal Church. Sutterfield lives in Little Rock, AR with his wife and two daughters.

Saturday • AISI • 1:00 p.m.

Alexandra Teague is the author of The Principles Behind Flotation—a novel set in the Ozarks, where she was raised. She is also the author of two books of poetry: The Wise and Foolish Builders and Mortal Geography. Recipient of the California Book Award, a Stegner Fellowship, and an NEA Fellowship, Teague is an associate professor at the University of Idaho.

Saturday • WS • 10:00 a.m.

Robin Stone is the creator of the blog Add a Pinch, which has been featured in Southern Living, Better Homes and Gardens, Redbook, and online at the Huffington Post and the Food Network. Add a Pinch is now available in book form. Stone lives in Georgia with her husband, their son, and their two golden retrievers.

Thursday • MLDC • noon

Adam Silvera was born and raised in the Bronx. His debut novel, More Happy Than Not, received multiple starred reviews and became a New York Times bestseller. History is All You Left Me is his new book. He writes full time in New York City and is tall for no reason.

Thursday • Level 4 • 6:30 p.m.

Kanishk Tharoor wrote Swimmer Among the Stars, a collection of short stories. His work has appeared in the New York Times, the Guardian, and the Los Angeles Review of Books, and he has been nominated for a National Magazine Award. He is the presenter of the BBC radio series Museum of Lost Objects. Sponsored by Rebsamen Fund.

Saturday • HAM • 4:00 p.m.

Dominic Walliman writes the Professor Astro Cat series, including Professor Astro Cat’s Atomic Adventure, and makes YouTube videos explaining science. He has a PhD in quantum device physics and has worked at the quantum computing company D-Wave Systems Inc. Sponsored by Museum of Discovery.

Friday • MOD • 9:30 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.

Saturday • ML3 • 11:00 a.m.

Jim Warnock has a love of hiking that has led him from the Ozarks of Arkansas to the High Sierras of California. His book, Five Star Trails: The Ozarks, features descriptions of the most beautiful trails in Arkansas and Missouri. He enjoys traveling and writing with his rescued black Lab, Hiker-dog.

Saturday • WS • 11:30 a.m.

Jeffrey Storey studied art in Italy and went on a pilgrimage to see every Michelangelo work on display in Europe. She is an award-winning television producer of shows such as Tavis Smiley on PBS and The Writers’ Room on Sundance. Born and raised in Hot Springs, AR, she has lived in Los Angeles for 15 years. Oil and Marble is her debut novel.

Saturday • ASI • 1:00 p.m.

JASON ZINSMAN is a comedy critic for the New York Times. His new book is Letterman: The Last Giant of Late Night. He has also written Shock Value: How a Few Eccentric Outsiders Gave Us Nightmares, Conquered Hollywood, and Invented Modern Horror and the Kindle single Searching for Dave Chappelle. He writes regularly for Slate and Vanity Fair.

Saturday • MLDC • 1:00 p.m.

Ellie Wald is a Grammy Award winner who worked as an accompanist, performed internationally, and recorded two solo albums. His award-winning books include Dylan Goes Electric and Escaping the Delta. His new work is American Epic. Sponsored by Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.

Saturday • HAM • 2:30 p.m.

Kevin Wilson is the author of the collection Tunneling to the Center of the Earth and two novels: The Family Fang and Perfect Little World. He lives in Sewanee, TN, where he is an associate professor in the English Department at The University of the South.

Saturday • MLDC • 5:30 p.m.

Sarah Stone is a columnist for Rolling Stone and the author of the national bestsellers Love Is a Mix Tape: Love and Loss, One Song at a Time and Talking to Girls About Duran Duran: One Young Man’s Quest for True Love and a Cooler Haircut. Her latest book is Dreaming the Beatles: The Love Story of One Band and the Whole World.

Saturday • RRT • 4:00 p.m.

Michael Fabris Smith is the award-winning author of Desperation Road, Rivers, and The Hands of Strangers. His novels have been named in numerous Best Books of the Year lists, and he is the recipient of the Mississippi Author Award for Fiction. His short fiction has twice been nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

Saturday • RRT • 2:30 p.m.


Thursday • Level 4 • 6:30 p.m.


Saturday • CCC • 10:00 a.m.

Jim Wright has taught and traveled in the high desert southwest for over two decades. His first book of poetry, The American Highway, was published by Sierra Nevada Books.

Saturday • CC • 2:30 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.
About the Fest

The Arkansas Literary Festival is in its fourteenth year of bringing exceptional authors to the Natural State for four days of mind-expanding and entertaining FREE programs.

CALS recently began a partnership with the Junior League/Little Readers Rock for the Saturday programs at the Hillary Rodham Clinton Children’s Library & Learning Center that includes an opportunity for students to receive free books. This union has resulted in exciting and extensive Festival programming for children.

The Mayor’s Day of Science & Reading, now in its third year, is a collaborative effort with the Clinton Presidential Center, the Museum of Discovery, Mayor Mark Stodola, and the City of Little Rock. This program features a full day of events for area students with expert presenters. This year, several schools are participating, and a select number of seats are open to the public.

Each September for six years, the Fest has provided CALS Banned Books programming. Banned Books Week is celebrated nationally as part of the American Library Association’s effort to fight censorship. In 2016 The Fest produced a week of One Thousand and One Arabian Nights events including an Aladdin marionette performance by an Indiana troupe; performances and workshops by a Houston-based professional sword-balancing belly dancer; two screenings of the oldest extant full length animated film, The Adventures of Prince Achmed, loosely based on the One Thousand and One Nights; a themed writing contest for all ages, and a Banned Books informance by the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra.

This year’s Classic in Context is Lolita, chosen by patrons at the 2016 Classic in Context Anna Karenina session. Be sure to vote for the 2018 Classic in Context. You’ll find ballot boxes at Book Central and the CALS Ron Robinson Theater.

Another Festival related program is Fiction & Fact: A War Dialogue with veterans, which is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Fiction & Fact is completing the first year of a two year program. Area veterans have participated in book and film discussions based on Johnny Got His Gun, Billy Lynn’s Long Halftime Walk, and All Quiet on the Western Front. Participants will soon be taking a trip to Kansas City’s World War I Museum and Memorial. The NEH is covering the expenses of a few veteran authors at this year’s Fest.

If you’ve enjoyed any of these programs, we hope you’ll consider donating to the Arkansas Literary Festival by texting LITFEST to 41444 or going to arkansasliteraryfestival.org/#contribute.

Happy reading.

Upcoming CALS Events

CALS CON Saturday, May 20
TERROR $2 TUESDAY SUMMER MOVIE SERIES June 6-August 15
SUMMER READING CLUB June 10-August 15
FOCAL USED BOOK SALE Thursday-Saturday, July 13-15
SELF PUBLISHED & SMALL PRESS (SPSP) BOOK FAIR November 11

Facebook.com/ArkansasLiteraryFestival twitter.com/AR_LitFest ArkansasLiteraryFestival.org
WITS (or Writers in the Schools) is a terrific yet lesser known Festival program. This year’s iteration sends 16 authors to various schools from Arkansas to Conway. Wright, Lindsey & Jennings LLP sponsors the program, which not only gives students the chance to meet authors, but also provides some schools with books. In 2015, retired NBA player Joe Barry Carroll visited Central High School.

Behind the Scenes 2017

Talent Chair: Kevin Brockmeier
Festival Chairs: Susan Santa Cruz/Dana Downes
Hospitality Chair: Literacy Action of Central Arkansas
Moderator Chair: Amy Bradley-Hole
Swag Chair: Katherine Stewart
WITS Chair: Jennifer White

Talent Committee
Eliza Borné, Jan Emberton, Garbo Heame, Philip Jones, Janis Kearney, Brad Minnick, Bob Razer, Susan Santa Cruz, Katherine Stewart, Alex Verno

Moderators
Levi Agee, Paul Austin, Seth Boyton, Grant Bradley, Rodney Block, Eliza Borné, Finn and Jack Bradley-Hole, Wiley Branton, Guy Choate, Jeff Condron, Hope Coultier, Nate Coultier, Tom Deblacker, Kevin Delaney, Joel DiPippo, Mama Franson, Lindsay Gray, Garbo Heame, Greg Henderson, Kelly Hines, Patrick Houston, Philip Revicki, Janis Kearney, Baker Kunis, Shannon Lausch, Sandy Longhorn, Tiffany Maltezzo, Mary Ruth Marotte, Paula Martin, Travis McConnell, Brad Minnick, Susan Myhryon, Lena Moore, Oly Neal, David Peterson, Bobby Roberts, Skip Rutherford, Theo Segura, Katherine Stewart, Shea Stewart, Dotan Stub, Laura Barto Vilar, Scott Walters, Briggert Williams, Bill Wilson

Festival Guides

Swag Committee
Stephanie Maxwell, Laura Stanley

Special Thanks
Paul S. Austin, Denise Barbieri, Jay Barth, Kelley Bass, Holle Berdeja, Phyllis Britton, Jeffrey Condron, Amanda Copley, Angela Delaney, Nikolai DiPippo, Sara Drew, Emie Dumas, Randy Duncan, Garbo Heame, Katlin Howell, H.K. Hummel, Stacy Hurd, Adam Long, David Knox, Chuck Magill, Stephan McAteer, Gary Miller, Brad Minnick, Fran Plymale, Jim Rice, Susan Santa Cruz, Tricia Spione, Bill Spivey, Mia Stark, Elizabeth Strandberg, Scott Walters, Melissa Whitfield, Joyce Willis, Alex Verno

Central Arkansas Library System
Brad Mooy, Festival Coordinator; Teresa Milkan Carlsie, Book Sales; Amy Bradley-Hole, Festival Page; Shari Atwood, Cyndi Barron-Harris, Adam Bearden, Nate Coultier, Kristen Cruise, Jamie Diaz, Lisa Donovan, Linda Ellis, Diane Foster, Stewart Fuel, Madelyn Gans, Brandin Gibbons, Christine Gronwald, Herbert Hanks, Lee Ann Haskin, Joe Hudak, Nathan James, Lily Kappman, Michelle Bailey Keachy, Scott Kirkhuff, Tameka Lee, Amy Miller, Sarah Miller, Jackie Patel, Moriah Pedro, Ellen Samples, Sarah Sewell, Ali Welky, Margaret Yates

Venues

Main Library Campus
Main Library Darragh Center (MLDC) Main Library Fribourg Room (MLFR) Main Library Youth Services (MLS) Main Library Level 4 (ML4) • Arkansas Studies Institute (ASi) Cox Creative Center (CCC) • Ron Robinson Theater (RRT)

Off-Site
300 Third Tower, 300 3rd St.
Chastie Episcopal Church, 809 Scott St.
Clinton Presidential Center/Choctaw Station 1200 President Clinton Ave.
Essie Purse Museum, 1510 Main St.
Hebrine Fine Art, 1001 Wright Ave.
Hillary Rodham Clinton Children's Library & Learning Center (HRCLC), 4000 Wood 10th St.
Historic Arkansas Museum (HAM), 200 East 3rd St.
MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History (MM), 503 E. 9th St.
Masonic Templars Cultural Center (MTC), 501 W. 9th St.
Museum of Discovery (MOD), 500 President Clinton Ave.
Rebel Kettle Brewing, 822 E. 6th St.
The Root Cafe, 1600 Main St.
Sticky Rock 'n' Roll Chicken Shack, 107 River Market Ave.
Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center (WS), 602 President Clinton Ave.
The Arkansas Literary Festival is sponsored in part by the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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Mosaic Templars Cultural Center
Parkview Arts & Science Magnet High School
Pyramid Art, Books & Custom Framing/
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Mayor Mark Stodola
Mick Wiggins
UA Little Rock Department of Rhetoric & Writing

**Partner**

Little Readers Rock
The Junior League of Little Rock/Little Readers Rock is a partner for the events at the Hillary Rodham Clinton Children’s Library & Learning Center.