



NINTH ANNUAL RANCHO MIRAGE WRITERS FESTIVAL

AT THE RANCHO MIRAGE LIBRARY AND OBSERVATORY

FEBRUARY 1-3, 2023



Jamie Kabler
FESTIVAL FOUNDER



Aaron Espinosa
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR



**Debbie
Green Miller**
EXECUTIVE
PRODUCER



**Deborah
C. Dejah**
DIRECTOR OF
PROGRAMMING



Welcome back! We are very excited to be celebrating our Ninth Rancho Mirage Writers Festival, live and in person! We have missed seeing all of you and the energy and enthusiasm you bring to our Festival and to the halls of the award-winning Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory.

The City of Rancho Mirage has invested in numerous new systems designed specifically to protect all of you from ongoing concerns about COVID-19. This includes the Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization system (NPBI) throughout the Library as well as creating a new Outdoor Pavilion with a giant screen and seating. All of the sessions taking place in the London Room will be live streamed to the new Pavilion, where you can enjoy our beautiful desert weather.

Our theme this year is *Brave New World: The Future is Now*, and we have once again assembled an impressive lineup of authors, educators and experts to address a broad range of topics, including climate change and the future of the environment, advances in medical science and living with pandemics and the future of democracy. Some notable new faces include Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and physician who will talk about his new book, *The Song of the Cell*, and The Nature Conservancy’s CEO Jennifer Morris who will talk about climate change and the future of our planet. We are honored to present esteemed historians H.W. Brands, Douglas Brinkley, Eddie S. Glaude Jr., Doris Kearns Goodwin, Nigel Hamilton and Jon Meacham to discuss the future of democracy from a historical perspective. On the political front, we have Peter Baker, James Carville, Susan Glasser, Tim Miller, Bret Stephens and Karl Rove, to name just a few, to discuss the recent midterm elections and what we can expect in the upcoming 2024 presidential election. Our mission remains the same—to bring together the very best writers and speakers with our readers to share ideas and celebrate the written word.

If you miss a session, remember that all sessions are filmed and will be available on our website and YouTube channel soon after the Festival ends, thanks to our video sponsor, The Auen Foundation. C-SPAN BookTV will be back filming our Festival giving us national exposure.

Thank you to all our readers and writers for your patience, cooperation and loyalty, and a special thank you to those of you who have traveled from all over the world to be a part of our Festival—we hope you thoroughly enjoy these next three days.

Let the 2023 Rancho Mirage Writers Festival begin!

Jamie Kabler
Festival Founder

Aaron Espinosa
Executive Director

Debbie Green Miller
Executive Producer

Deborah C. Dejah
Director of Programming

“I couldn’t have imagined a more thoughtful, engaged audience—an author’s dream.”

— Sarah Lewis

“It’s a top tier event ... you got top tier accommodations, top tier weather, top tier people, top tier audience.”

— James Carville

“This writers festival is phenomenal because you have all genres—fiction, nonfiction, you have people who are in the news, who are making news, who are looking at history—and they are all gathered together.”

— Dr. Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress

“It’s become the—in a relatively short period of time, seven years—probably the premier writers conference in our country.”

— Michael Douglas

“I simply can’t get over the elegance, the lavishness, the generosity and the real sense of passion that animates your Festival!”

— Pico Iyer

“I was awed at something of such merit being executed with such imagination and authority.”

— Van Gordon Sauter

“The Writers Festival is the best of its kind and will soon be a landmark institution of literate American culture.”

— Bret Stephens

“This is the swankiest writers festival ever.”

— Alexandra Fuller

“The best Writers Festival in the United States.”

— Marvin Kalb

“It is the best organized, most upbeat, and enthusiastically supported festival I’ve ever attended.”

— David Ebershoff

“The best Writers Festival in the universe.”

— Dave Barry

“You’ll talk to a distinguished novelist one minute and then to a brilliant historian the next, and there’s no other place I can think of where you have this wonderful mix of disciplines and intellects.”

— Peter Bart

“I have been to writers events on four continents and this is the best in the world.”

— Lee Child

“I have never been to a better organized, more fun literary occasion.”

— Lord Michael Dobbs, creator of *House of Cards*

“It’s a triumph of organization and sorcery and I loved every minute.”

— Anne Sebba

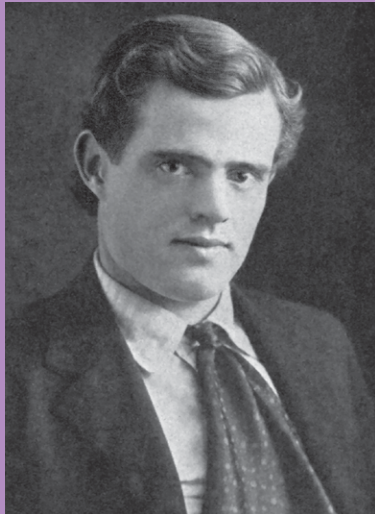
“Jamie Kabler—through sheer will, brains, and force of personality—built overnight what is possibly the greatest book festival in America, certainly the most fun.”

— A. Scott Berg

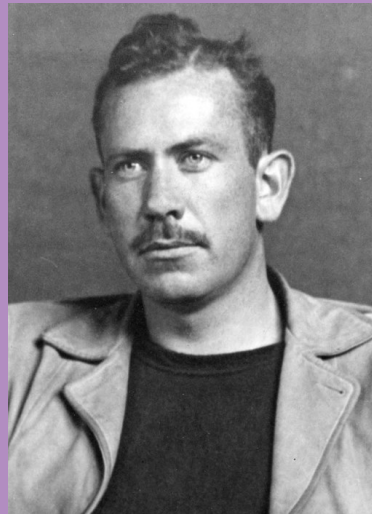
RMWF
RANCHO MIRAGE
WRITERS FESTIVAL
AMERICA'S BEST WRITERS FESTIVAL

DID YOU KNOW?

All our rooms for the Festival are named after legendary California writers.



Jack London



John Steinbeck



Walt Disney



Joan Didion

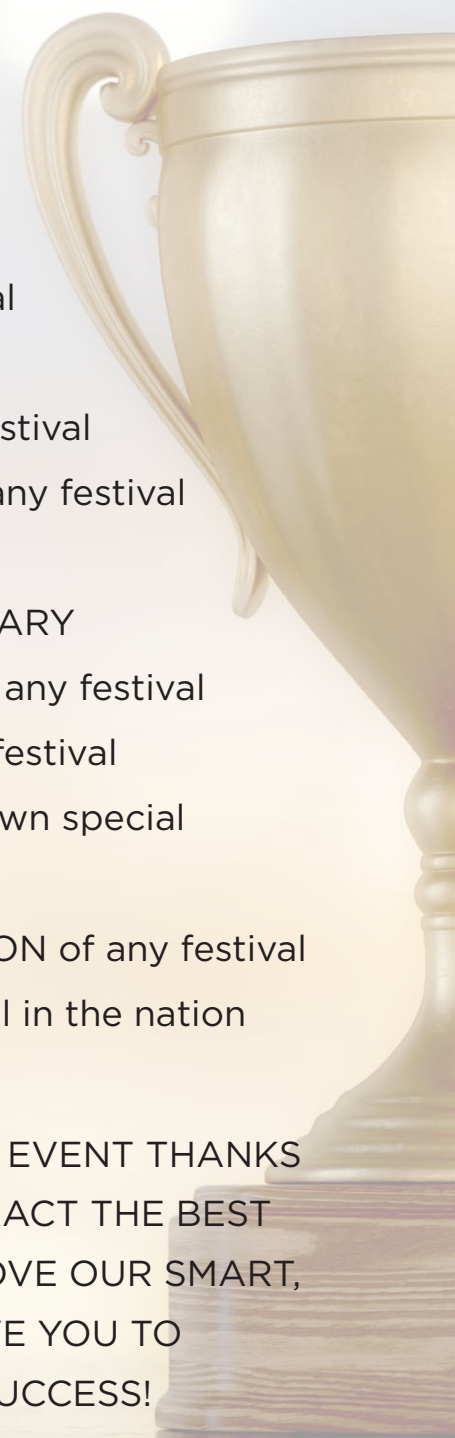


RANCHO MIRAGE WRITERS FESTIVAL

AMERICA'S BEST WRITERS FESTIVAL

- Best READERS of any festival
- Best PROGRAM of any festival
- Best CHAIRS of any festival
- Best BOX LUNCHESES of any festival
- Best SOUND AND VIDEO of any festival
- Best PASTRIES of any festival
- Best writers festival at a LIBRARY
- Best and friendliest STAFF of any festival
- Best BAG AND GIFTS of any festival
- Best COFFEE BAR with our own special
Literary Blend coffee
- Best ONLINE COMMUNICATION of any festival
- Best WEATHER of any festival in the nation
in January

THE FESTIVAL IS A PREMIER EVENT THANKS TO OUR READERS. WE ATTRACT THE BEST WRITERS BECAUSE THEY LOVE OUR SMART, SAVVY AUDIENCES. WE HAVE YOU TO THANK FOR OUR SHARED SUCCESS!





MACARTHUR
FOUNDATION
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ANGEL NIGHT 2023

An exclusive evening just for Angels on January 31

Admiral William H. McRaven

Admiral William H. McRaven will be appearing for one night only—Tuesday, January 31, 2023. His appearance is part of Angel Night, a special evening for our generous Angel sponsors.

We are thrilled to present four-star Navy SEAL Admiral William H. McRaven, Commander of U.S. Special Operations Command (2011-2014); Commander of U.S. Joint Special Operations Command (2008-2011); Commander of U.S. Special Operations Command Europe and Director of NATO Special Operations Forces Coordination Centre (2006-2008). McRaven oversaw the 2011 raid in Pakistan that killed al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. He has been involved in some of the most famous missions in recent memory, including the capture of Saddam Hussein and the rescue of Captain Richard Phillips. As the commander of U.S. Special Operations Command, McRaven led a force of 69,000 men and women and was responsible for conducting counter-terrorism operations worldwide. He is a recognized national authority on U.S. foreign policy and has advised presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama and other U.S. leaders on defense issues.

We will be live streaming and recording this incredible event.

We will send an email with a link for the live stream, or visit our website, rmwritersfest.org on Tuesday, January 31, 2023, for the link.



The aircraft carrier *USS Ronald Reagan* leads a formation of Carrier Battle Group 5 ships as U.S. Air Force B-52 Stratofortress aircraft and U.S. Navy F/A-18 Hornets pass overhead (photo: US Navy)

Angel Night 2023

Angel Night at the beautiful Omni Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa is the most sought-after ticket in the Coachella Valley. This special evening is made possible by the generous support of Helene Galen; Harold Matzner; President and CEO of Eisenhower Health Marty Massiello and Jeff Weyant; President of EMC Foundation Michael Landes and Stephanie Landes; and Aubrey and Lori Serfling. Thank you to our Dinner Chairs Drs. Terri and Bart Ketover.



Helene Galen and Harold Matzner



EISENHOWER HEALTH



Peggy Jacobs and Karl Rove (photo: Lani Garfield)



Jan Salta (photo: Lani Garfield)



Angel Night 2020 James Patterson (photo: Michael Segal)



Doris Kearns Goodwin and Jon Meacham (photo: Michael Segal)



Bret Stephens
(photo: Michael Segal)



Sherrie Auen and Catharine Reed (photo: Lani Garfield)



Lori and Michael Milken
(photo: Lani Garfield)



Jordan Schnitzer
(photo: www.jordanschnitzer.org)

Hope Through the Lens of History

Jon Meacham

Wednesday 8:30–9:15 am

Jack London Room

Presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Jon Meacham** opens the Ninth Annual RMWF with an inspiring and hopeful examination of our country's current state of affairs. Meacham is one of America's most venerated intellectuals who has earned the respect and admiration of thought leaders the world over. A skilled orator with a depth of knowledge about politics, religion and current events, he has the special gift of bringing historical context to the important issues of the day—a vision much needed in these tumultuous times. Please join us for what promises to be a thoughtful and uplifting discussion from one of RMWF's Literary Lions.

The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

This session will be simulcast in

the new Outdoor Pavilion for Readers

“

In our finest hours... the soul of the country manifests itself in an inclination to

OPEN OUR ARMS RATHER THAN TO CLENCH OUR FISTS;
to look out rather than to turn inward; to accept rather than to reject. In so doing, America has grown ever stronger, confident that the

CHOICE OF LIGHT OVER DARK
is the means by which we pursue progress.

—*Jon Meacham*



Homeboy Hero

Father Gregory Boyle with
Marylouise “Oatsie” Oates
Wednesday 8:30–9:15 am
John Steinbeck Room



Photo: Homeboy Industries

In 1986 **Father Gregory Boyle** became pastor of Dolores Mission Church, the poorest Catholic parish in Los Angeles with the highest concentration of gang activity. At the time, the prevailing means to deal with gang violence was mass incarceration. But where others saw criminals, Father Boyle saw people in need of help. He popularized the radical notion that even the most demonized individuals can thrive when given a second chance. Homeboy Industries was established, creating and operating its own job training businesses and services including a bakery, café, tattoo removal, education, workforce development and more—providing a vital training ground for thousands of homeboys and homegirls. Writer and activist **Marylouise “Oatsie” Oates** speaks with Father Boyle about his heroic mission to serve his community.



Photo: AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli

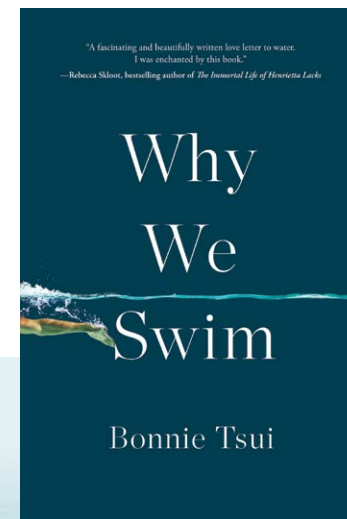
Meet The First Female Lieutenant Governor of California—Eleni Kounalakis

Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis with
Patt Morrison
Wednesday 8:30–9:15 am
Walt Disney Room

Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis was sworn in as the 50th Lieutenant Governor of California by Governor Gavin Newsom on January 7, 2019, making her the first woman elected Lt. Governor of California. A native Californian, she visited each of the state’s 58 counties during her historic campaign, beating a fellow Democrat to win the office. She was the former Ambassador to Hungary and is the author of a highly acclaimed memoir *Madam Ambassador: Three Years of Diplomacy, Dinner Parties, and Democracy in Budapest*. Kounalakis speaks with *Los Angeles Times* columnist **Patt Morrison**.

Why We Swim

Bonnie Tsui with Justice Douglas Miller
Wednesday 8:30–9:15 am
Joan Didion Room



We swim for pleasure, for exercise and for healing. But humans, unlike other animals that are drawn to water, are not natural-born swimmers. We had to learn. Our evolutionary ancestors learned for survival; now, in the twenty-first century, swimming is one of the most popular activities in the world. **Bonnie Tsui**, an avid swimmer, shares some unusual stories with fellow swimmer **Justice Douglas Miller** and answers the question of why we swim.

Wednesday 9:30–10:15 am Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory



Foreign Affairs

Susan Glasser, Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis, Ben Rhodes and Bret Stephens with Dr. Markos Kounalakis (moderator)

Wednesday 9:30–10:15 am

Jack London Room

Join us for in-depth analysis and debate of U.S. foreign policy, geopolitics and international affairs. Our expert panelists include **Susan Glasser**, former *Washington Post* Moscow bureau co-chief and former editor-in-chief of *Foreign Policy* magazine; **Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis**, Lt. Governor of California and former Ambassador to Hungary; **Ben Rhodes**, former Deputy National Security Advisor under President Obama; and **Bret Stephens**, *New York Times* op-ed columnist and former editor-in-chief of *The Jerusalem Post*. Foreign affairs analyst for CBS and CNN International **Dr. Markos Kounalakis** moderates.

The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

This session will be simulcast in
the new Outdoor Pavilion for Readers

Robert Costa and Karl Rove in Conversation

Robert Costa and Karl Rove
Wednesday 9:30–10:15 am
John Steinbeck Room

Wall Street Journal weekly columnist and frequent FOX News contributor **Karl Rove** is paired with **Robert Costa**, chief election and campaign correspondent for CBS News and acclaimed political reporter and political analyst, for what is often too rare today—a civilized, polite conversation about the nation's condition, differences between Republicans and Democrats over big public policy issues, the state of both parties and the way forward for our country. Costa and Rove will examine issues taken from today's headlines, put them in a broader historical context and help you better understand the dynamics driving key players and the two major parties, sharing their deep understanding of the ideological currents and challenges of the recent 2022 and upcoming 2024 elections.





Photo: Michael Singer

Recipe for Success

Ruth Reichl with Marylouise “Oatsie” Oates

Wednesday 9:30–10:15 am

Walt Disney Room

When Condé Nast offered **Ruth Reichl** the top position at America’s oldest epicurean magazine, she declined. She was a writer, not a manager, and had no inclination to be anyone’s boss. Yet Reichl had been reading *Gourmet* since she was eight; it had inspired her career. How could she say no? This is the story of a former Berkeley hippie entering the corporate world and worrying about losing her soul. It is the story of the moment restaurants became an important part of popular culture—a time when the rise of the farm-to-table movement changed, forever, the way we eat. **Marylouise “Oatsie” Oates**, foodie, entertainer extraordinaire and long-time friend, speaks with Reichl about her life and impressive career.



The Rock Star Conductor

Teddy Abrams with Corinna da Fonseca-Wollheim

Wednesday 9:30–10:15 am

Joan Didion Room

At age 35, Maestro **Teddy Abrams** is the youngest conductor of a major orchestra in the United States, and he’s done what most orchestras are desperate to do: increased the audience, young and old. He has created innovative and bold interdisciplinary collaborations with the Louisville Ballet, the Center for Interfaith Relations, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the Speed Art Museum, rock musician Jim James and the Folger Shakespeare Library. He has also included Star Wars, rock, rap, hip-hop and country music in the orchestra’s repertoire. **Corinna da Fonseca-Wollheim**, contributing classical music critic at *The New York Times*, talks with Abrams about his vision and plans for the future.

“Doing something really well and making it special—making it extraordinary—is a life’s work.”

— Teddy Abrams



Photo: Arnold O’Neil



Wednesday 10:30–11:15 am
Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory

**What a Conservative Can Learn from a Liberal...
and Vice Versa**

Frank Bruni and Bret Stephens

Wednesday 10:30–11:15 am

Jack London Room

Two of the country's leading columnists, *New York Times*' left-leaning **Frank Bruni** and his conservative colleague **Bret Stephens**, will discuss what a conservative can learn from a liberal and vice versa in these hyper-partisan times, modeling the kind of civil conversation that Americans on opposite sides of the ideological divide so desperately need.

The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

This session will be simulcast in

the new Outdoor Pavilion for Readers



Photo: folcs.org

Photo: thecrimson.com



The Outlander Series: An “Accidental” Phenomenon

Diana Gabaldon with Hal Gershowitz

Wednesday 10:30–11:15 am

John Steinbeck Room

Diana Gabaldon is the number one *New York Times* bestselling author of the wildly popular *Outlander* series, now a Starz original series in its sixth season. History. Warfare. Sex. Violence. Honor. Betrayal. Vengeance. Hope. Despair. These are just some of the things you will find in Gabaldon's blockbuster *Outlander* novels, which have been described by Salon.com as “the smartest historical sci-fi adventure-romance story ever written by a science Ph.D.” Spanning time, space and genres, Gabaldon's ambitious books have won critical and popular acclaim across the globe with their crossover appeal. Gabaldon talks with author and fan **Hal Gershowitz** about how she came to write the *Outlander* series, the creation of the two remarkable characters of Claire Beauchamp and Jamie Fraser and what it's like working with Starz on the television adaptation of the novels.

Schematic for the structure of *Cloud Cuckoo Land* (image: anthonydoerr.com)



Photo Doerr: Deb Hardee
Photo Dr. Hayden: Shawn Miller

Cloud Cuckoo Land

Anthony Doerr and Dr. Carla Hayden

Wednesday 10:30-11:15 am

Walt Disney Room

Please join **Dr. Carla Hayden**, the Librarian of Congress, and **Anthony Doerr** in conversation about Doerr's latest critically acclaimed novel, *Cloud Cuckoo Land*. The title comes from a phrase originated by the Greek playwright Aristophanes 2,400 years ago and means "utopia in the sky." The book is five novels in one, each braided around the others, and each of the book's five protagonists are connected through time by a sixth novel: an ancient text about a shepherd's comical journey to a utopian city in the sky. Dedicated to "the librarians then, now, and in the years to come," *Cloud Cuckoo Land* is a paean to the extraordinary human capacity to transmit stories from generation to generation and a novel about stewardship—of books, of our shared planet and of the human heart.

A Hollywood Classic

Ben Mankiewicz with Dave Karger

Wednesday 10:30-11:15 am

Joan Didion Room

Ben Mankiewicz is the award-winning primetime host of Turner Classic Movies (TCM). When he made his TCM debut in September 2003, he became only the second host hired in the network's history, taking over for Robert Osborne. During his career at TCM, he has introduced thousands of movies on the air and has become one of the best interviewers in the business, leading thoughtful and entertaining long-form conversations with more than two hundred of the industry's top talents. He is also a contributor to CBS News *Sunday Morning*. Mankiewicz hails from Hollywood royalty: his grandfather was *Citizen Kane* scribe Herman J. Mankiewicz, his great-uncle was writer/director Joseph Mankiewicz and his cousin was writer/director Tom Mankiewicz. Fellow TCM host **Dave Karger** sits down with Mankiewicz to talk about his life in the movies and his journey to becoming host of the beloved TCM channel.



Photo: Getty Images

Wednesday 11:30 am-12:15 pm
Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory

THE WORLD TODAY



The World Today

Peter Baker, Susan Glasser, Eddie S. Glaude Jr. and Congressman Joseph Kennedy III with Mike Murphy (moderator)

Wednesday 11:30 am-12:15 pm

Jack London Room

Our distinguished panelists will discuss the most important current events of the day. **Peter Baker** is the chief White House correspondent for *The New York Times* and a political analyst for MSNBC. **Susan Glasser** is a staff writer for *The New Yorker* and co-author of *The Divider: Trump in the White House*. **Eddie S. Glaude Jr.** is a professor of Religion and African American Studies and the chair of the Department of African American Studies at Princeton University and an author. **Congressman Joseph Kennedy III** is a lawyer and politician who served as the U.S. representative for Massachusetts's 4th congressional district from 2013 to 2021.

A member of the Democratic Party, he is a member of the Kennedy family. **Mike Murphy**, a Republican political consultant, moderates.

The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

This session will be simulcast in

the new Outdoor Pavilion for Readers



Lawrence Wright and Pamela Paul in Conversation

Lawrence Wright and Pamela Paul
Wednesday 11:30 am-12:15 pm
 John Steinbeck Room

Lawrence Wright is a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, screenwriter, musician and staff writer for *The New Yorker* magazine. He has published eleven non-fiction books, two novels and numerous plays on subjects ranging from Al-Qaeda to Scientology as well as a prescient novel about a global pandemic, *The End of October*, which is being made into a feature film directed by Ridley Scott. *New York Times* op-ed columnist and former *New York Times Book Review* editor **Pamela Paul** sits down with the multi-talented and prolific author to discuss his life, writing and what he's working on next.



The British Are Coming

Rick Atkinson
Wednesday 11:30 am-12:15 pm
 Walt Disney Room



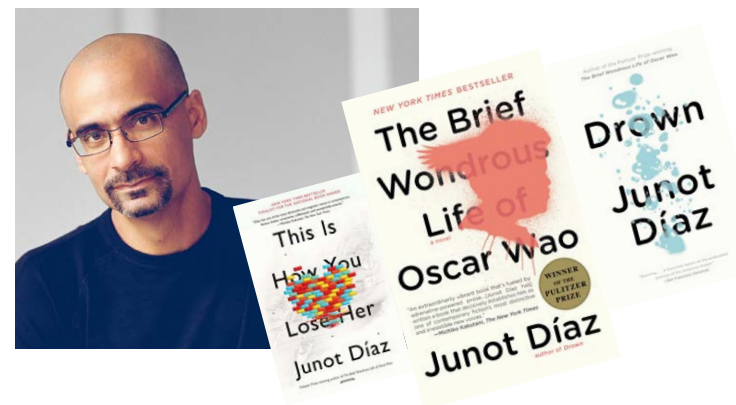
Image: *Battle of Long Island* by Domenick D'Andrea

Rick Atkinson, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *An Army at Dawn* and two other superb books about World War II, has long been admired for his deeply researched, stunningly vivid narrative histories. Now he turns his attention to the Revolutionary War, and in the initial volume of the *Revolution Trilogy*, he recounts the first 21 months of America's violent war for independence. Join Atkinson as he shares some of the momentous events and larger-than-life characters that defined the first act of our country's creation story.

Junot Díaz

Junot Díaz with Dr. Khoi Le
Wednesday 11:30 am-12:15 pm
 Joan Didion Room

Dominican-born and Jersey-bred, **Junot Díaz** has penned two critically acclaimed short story collections. His full-length work, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, garnered numerous awards including the Pulitzer Prize for fiction and top honors in a 2015 BBC poll of American critics' top 20 novels of the 21st century. Drawing on his own experience, Díaz's narratives are audacious mashups with language as colorful, vibrant and relevant as street art, yet informed by culture, history and a dizzying array of literary genres. Cofounder of the Voices of Our Nation Foundation, he has championed community change through plurality of expression. Join this MacArthur "Genius Grant" Fellowship winner and **Dr. Khoi Le** as they explore the diaspora condition, the paradox of assimilation vs. authenticity and the importance of cultural activism.



OPENING LUNCHEON
12:15 pm: Join us outside for a delicious boxed lunch of your choice.
Sponsored by Ellen and Tom Tully and Joyce Brandman.

Wednesday 1-1:45 pm
Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory



Books into Film with *Outlander's* Diana Gabaldon and *Bridgerton's* Julia Quinn

Diana Gabaldon and Julia Quinn with Dave Karger (moderator)

Wednesday 1-1:45 pm

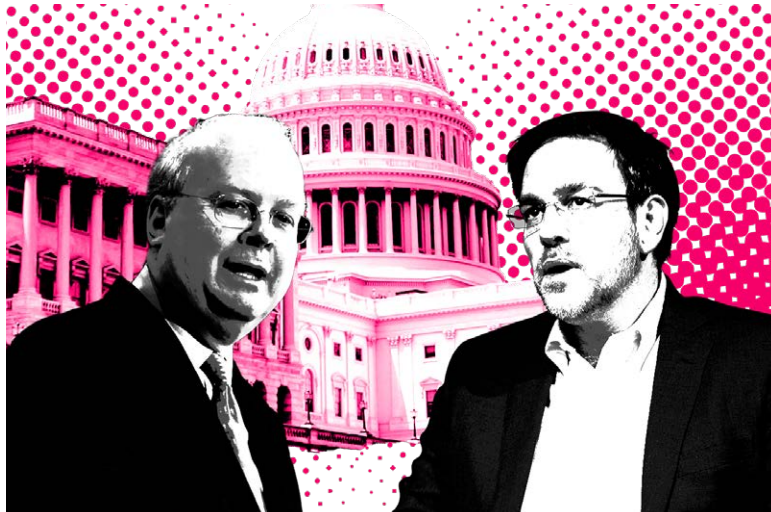
Jack London Room

For almost as long as there have been movies, there have been movies based on literature. Even in the age of superhero spectacles, novels remain one of Hollywood's prime wellsprings of source material. But transporting a story from page to screen isn't always so simple. Our two bestselling authors **Diana Gabaldon** and **Julia Quinn** share their experience of having their beloved books turned into wildly successful television series. **Dave Karger**, award-winning host on Turner Classic Movies, moderates.

The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

This session will be simulcast in

the new Outdoor Pavilion for Readers



Conservatives Today

Karl Rove and Bret Stephens

Wednesday 1-1:45 pm

John Steinbeck Room

The Republican Party was founded in 1854 to oppose slavery and its spread to new territories and states. Today, under the sway of Donald Trump and the MAGA movement, it is hardly recognizable as the party of Lincoln or even the party of Eisenhower. How and why has the Republican Party changed so drastically and what does it mean to be a conservative today? Two of America's most vocal conservative thinkers and writers **Karl Rove** and **Bret Stephens** meet on our stage to discuss what it means to be a conservative today.

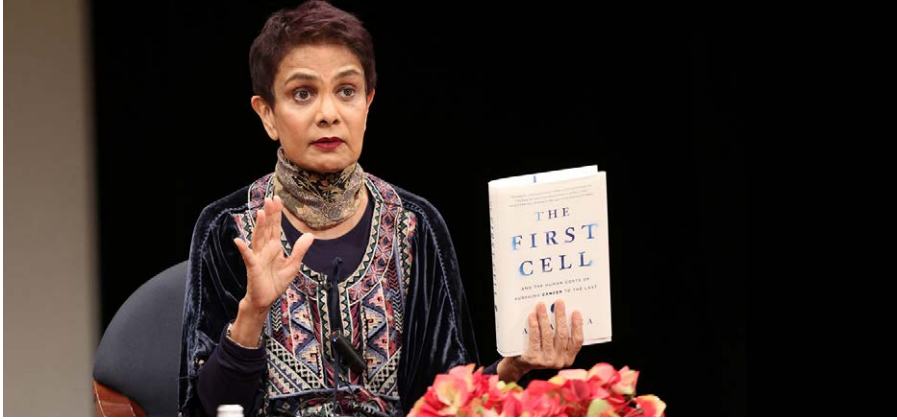


Photo: Asia Society

On Never Giving Up

Bernardine Evaristo with Elizabeth Kabler Sorensen
Wednesday 1-1:45 pm

Joan Didion Room

Bernardine Evaristo's 2019 Booker Prize win—the first by a Black woman—was a revolutionary moment both for British culture and for her. After three decades as a trailblazing writer, teacher and activist, she moved from the margins to center stage, taking her place in the spotlight at last. Her journey was a long one, but she made it, and she made history. *Manifesto* is Evaristo's intimate and inspirational, no-holds-barred account of how she did it, refusing to let any barriers stand in her way. She charts her creative rebellion against the mainstream and her lifelong commitment to the imaginative exploration of 'untold' stories. Drawing deeply on her own experiences, she offers a vital contribution to current conversations around social issues such as race, class, feminism, sexuality and aging. She speaks with **Elizabeth Kabler Sorensen** about her journey and why you can never give up.

How to Beat Cancer

Dr. Azra Raza with Dr. Khoi Le

Wednesday 1-1:45 pm

Walt Disney Room

Dr. Azra Raza offers a searing account of how both medicine and our society (mis)treats cancer, how we can do better and why we must. She shares her journey from hope to despair and back again, exploring cancer from every angle: medical, scientific, cultural and personal. Dr. Raza shares how she bore the terrible burden of being her own husband's oncologist as he succumbed to leukemia and why she believes we are overdue for a change in the paradigm for treating cancer.

“For all our great investment in research, we can't answer even the most basic questions about carcinogenesis. How does cancer start? We urgently need a new way to look at the entire cancer paradigm.”

— Dr. Azra Raza

Squamous cell carcinoma



Wednesday 2-2:45 pm Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory

Is Democracy in Peril?

Jonathan Darman, Eddie S. Glaude Jr., Doris Kearns Goodwin and Jon Meacham

Wednesday 2-2:45 pm

Jack London Room

RMWF is honored to host these award-winning historians to discuss whether our democracy is in peril. In the years before the 1860 election, Abraham Lincoln warned that “a house divided against itself cannot stand,” and in 1940 President Franklin Roosevelt battled domestic sympathy for European fascism and resistance to joining WWII. Members of our distinguished panel of presidential historians will share their unique perspective and make those historical comparisons to today. Please join **Jonathan Darman**, journalist and historian; **Eddie S. Glaude Jr.**, professor of Religion and African American Studies and the chair of the Department of African American Studies at Princeton University; presidential historian **Doris Kearns Goodwin**, author of several biographies on U.S. presidents including *No Ordinary Time* which won the Pulitzer Prize for history; and historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Jon Meacham**, author of numerous presidential biographies including *The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels*. Meacham was among a group of historians who met with President Biden to discuss this same topic. You won't want to miss what promises to be an informed and important conversation about the future of democracy.

The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

This session will be simulcast in
the new Outdoor Pavilion for Readers



The Divider

Peter Baker and Susan Glasser with
Pamela Paul (moderator)

Wednesday 2-2:45 pm

John Steinbeck Room

Co-authors **Peter Baker**, chief White House correspondent for *The New York Times* and a political analyst for MSNBC, and **Susan Glasser**, staff writer for *The New Yorker* and CNN global affairs analyst, have written the definitive insiders' story of Trump's four years as president. *The Divider* is based on unprecedented access to key players, from President Trump himself to cabinet officers, military generals, close advisers, Trump family members, congressional leaders, foreign officials and others, some of whom have never told their story until now. Moderated by *The New York Times* op-ed columnist **Pamela Paul**.



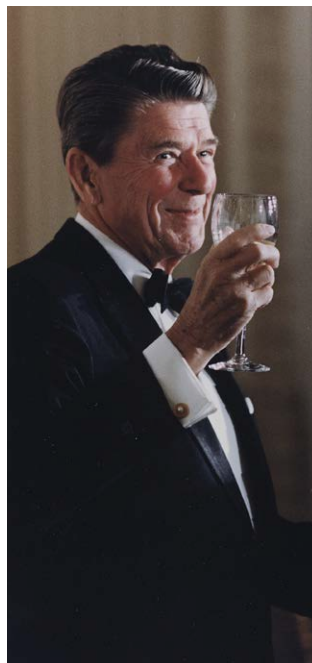
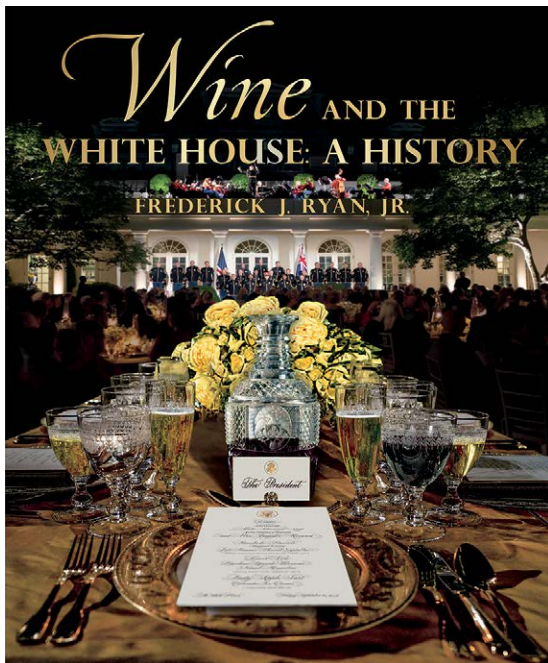
January 6 rally that immediately preceded the siege on the Capitol (photo: John Minchillo, File/AP Photo)

Wine and the White House: A History

Frederick J. Ryan, Jr. with Douglas Brinkley

Wednesday 2-2:45 pm

Walt Disney Room



President Reagan (photo: White House Photographic Office)

Whether you're a devotee of presidential history, a lover of wine or both, *Wine and the White House: A History* is sure to prove informative and entertaining. The first book of its kind, it is a comprehensive journey through the history of White House hospitality that explores every president's experience of wine. The fully illustrated pages also feature memorable presidential toasts, menus from historic White House gatherings, a catalog of vintages served and spectacular new photography of the White House glassware collection. **Frederick J. Ryan, Jr.** is a member of the board of directors at the White House Historical Association and publisher and chief executive officer of *The Washington Post*. He is joined in conversation by renowned presidential historian and no stranger to the White House **Douglas Brinkley**.

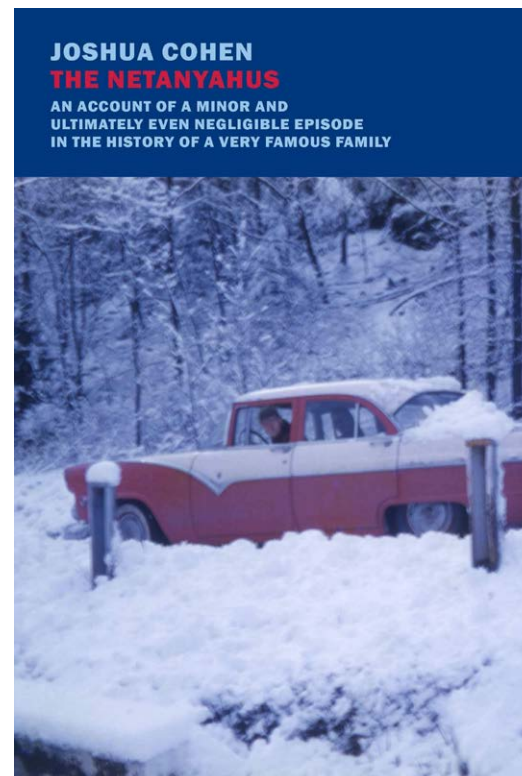
The Netanyahuus

Joshua Cohen with Dr. Khoi Le

Wednesday 2-2:45 pm

Joan Didion Room

Joshua Cohen is the author of numerous novels and a nonfiction collection. His 2021 novel *The Netanyahuus: An Account of a Minor and Ultimately Even Negligible Episode in the History of a Very Famous Family* **won the 2022 Pulitzer Prize**, was a *New York Times* Notable Book of 2021, won the 2021 National Jewish Book Award, was *The Wall Street Journal* Best Book of 2021 and was a Kirkus Best Fiction Book of 2021. *The Netanyahuus* is a mordant, linguistically deft historical novel about the ambiguities of the Jewish-American experience, presenting ideas and disputes as volatile as its tightly-wound plot. Mixing fiction with nonfiction, the campus novel with the lecture, *The Netanyahuus* is a wildly funny, inventive, genre-bending comedy of blending, identity and politics that finds Cohen at the height of his powers. He is joined in conversation by **Dr. Khoi Le**.



Wednesday 3-3:45 pm

Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory

Texas Proud

Douglas Brinkley, Karl Rove and Lawrence Wright

Wednesday 3-4 pm

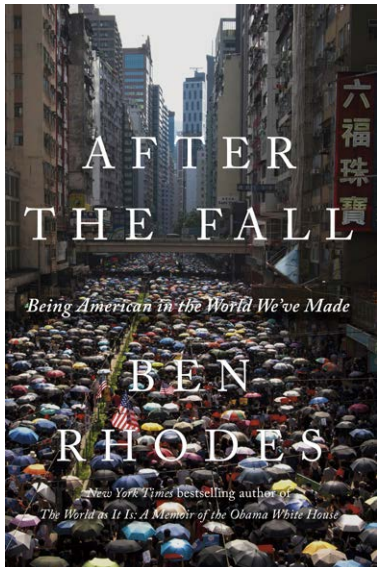
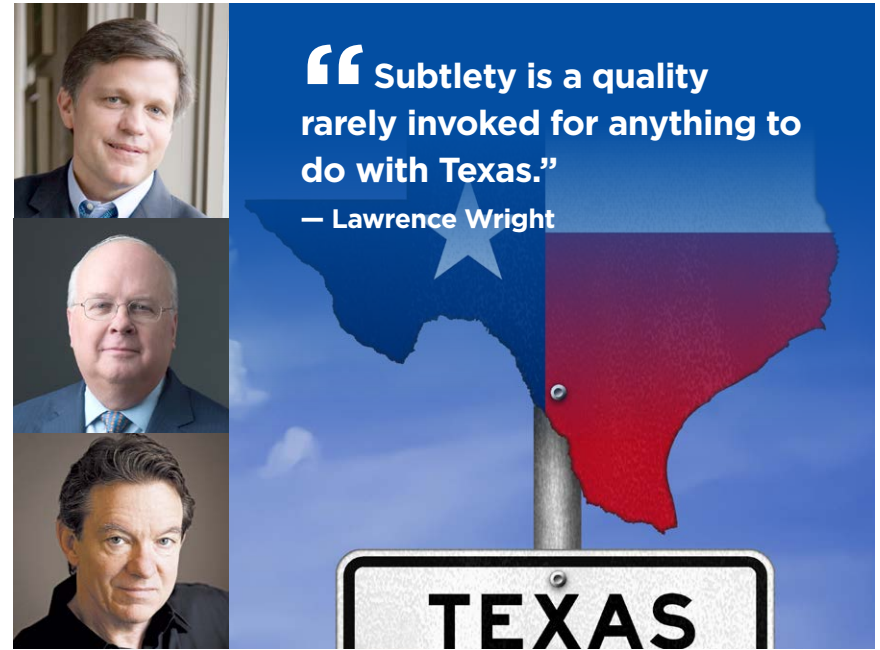
Jack London Room

Texas is a state that polarizes people's opinions unlike many others. It seems to have a national identity problem, or at least a confusing one, where outsiders often form strong opinions that aren't exactly accurate. Texas is a red state, but the cities are blue and among the most diverse in the nation. Oil is still king, but Texas now leads California in technology exports. Low taxes and minimal regulation have produced extraordinary growth, but there are also striking income disparities. Our panelists **Douglas Brinkley**, **Karl Rove** and **Lawrence Wright**, author of *God Save Texas: A Journey into the Soul of the Lone Star State*, are all Texans. Please join them for a fun-filled yet serious discussion of one of the most controversial and misunderstood states in the country.

The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

This session will be simulcast in

the new Outdoor Pavilion for Readers



After the Fall

Ben Rhodes with Tim Miller

Wednesday 3-3:45 pm

John Steinbeck Room

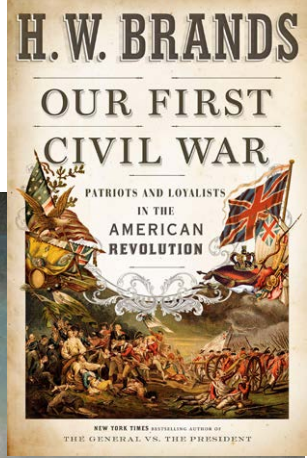
Why is democracy so threatened and authoritarianism on the rise in America and around the world? And what can we do about it? Former White House aide and close confidant to President Obama **Ben Rhodes** spent years traveling the world to understand why. He visited dozens of countries, meeting with politicians and activists confronting the same nationalism and authoritarianism that are tearing America apart. Along the way, a Russian opposition leader he spoke with was poisoned, the Hong Kong protesters he came to know saw their movement snuffed out and America itself reached the precipice of losing democracy before giving itself a second chance. Political consultant **Tim Miller** joins Rhodes to talk about his deeply personal, beautifully observed quest for answers.



Our First Civil War: Patriots and Loyalists in the American Revolution

H.W. Brands
Wednesday 3-3:45 pm
 Joan Didion Room

New York Times bestselling historian **H.W. Brands** offers a fresh and dramatic narrative of the American Revolution that shows it to be more than a fight against the British, but also a violent battle among neighbors forced to choose sides, Loyalist and Patriot. After the Revolution, the Patriots were cast as heroes and founding fathers while the Loyalists were relegated to bit parts best forgotten. Brands reminds us that before America could win its revolution against Britain, the Patriots had to win a bitter civil war against their sons and neighbors.



The Death of General Mercer at the Battle of Princeton, January 3, 1777, painting by John Trumbull (Yale University Art Gallery)



Bridgerton's Julia Quinn

Julia Quinn
Wednesday 3-3:45 pm
 Walt Disney Room

Julia Quinn's road to becoming a bestselling writer of historical romance novels was an unusual one to say the least. During her senior year at Harvard College, Quinn realized that she didn't know what she wanted to do with her life. She sat down with a tub of Ben & Jerry's and a good book and decided to figure out what to do. That's when she looked at the book next to the tub of now-empty Ben & Jerry's. It was a romance novel. "I could write one of those," she thought. And the rest, as they say, is history. Today she is the number one *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Bridgerton* series that Netflix has turned into one of its most beloved shows. Please join Quinn as she tells her story of what it was like taking *Bridgerton* from book to the screen with Shondra Rhimes and what's up next (no spoilers!)



Thursday 8:30–9:15 am
Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory

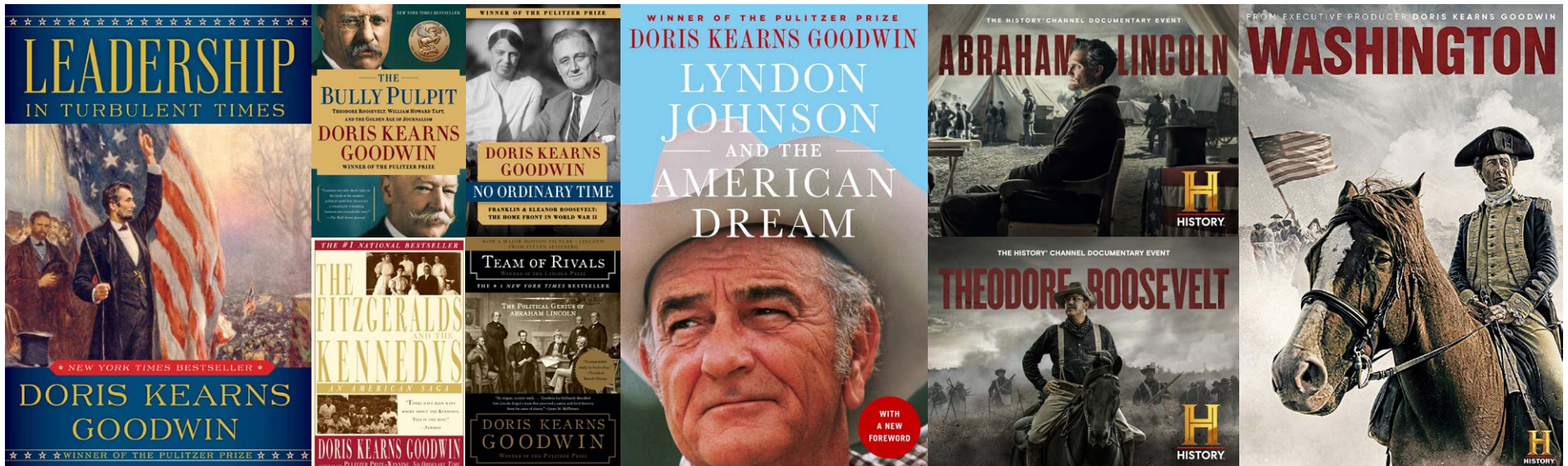
Doris Kearns Goodwin: America's Historian-in-Chief

Doris Kearns Goodwin
Thursday 8:30–9:15 am
Jack London Room

Pulitzer Prize–winning author and presidential historian **Doris Kearns Goodwin** opens day two of our Festival, sharing her perspective on American history and presidential leadership that provides lessons, solace and even hope. At this challenging time in our nation's history, "America's historian-in-chief" Goodwin puts this defining time in historical context. Not since the 1850s has our country been so politically divided, not since the Great Depression and World War II have we experienced such a string of collective hardships, not since the 1960s have we struggled so for social and economic equality. She will inspire us by providing proof that as a country and a people we've been through difficult times before and came through stronger.

The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

This session will be simulcast in
the new Outdoor Pavilion for Readers



Congressman Joseph Kennedy III and Robert Shrum

Congressman Joseph Kennedy III and Robert Shrum

Thursday 8:30–9:15 am

John Steinbeck Room



Photo: Jacquelyn Martin/AP Images

Congressman Joseph Kennedy III was quite literally born into a political dynasty. His father, Joseph Kennedy II, served as a member of the House of Representatives for over 10 years. His grandfather was Senator Robert Kennedy, and his great uncles include JFK and longtime Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy. Joseph Kennedy III served as the U.S. Representative for Massachusetts's 4th congressional district from 2013–2021. A former Peace Corps member, legal aid volunteer and assistant district attorney, he has worked tirelessly for the people most at risk, most marginalized and most in need. He is joined in conversation by political consultant **Robert Shrum** to talk about his life, career and political future. Shrum was the speechwriter and press secretary to Senator Edward M. Kennedy from 1980 to 1984 and famously wrote his concession speech to Jimmy Carter at the 1980 Democratic National Convention.

The Triumph of Nancy Reagan

Karen Tumulty with Patt Morrison
Thursday 8:30–9:15 am

Walt Disney Room

The Washington Post columnist **Karen Tumulty** has written the definitive biography of the fiercely vigilant and politically astute First Lady Nancy Reagan. Tumulty spent four years interviewing the people who knew the Reagans best and draws on overlooked archives, letters, memoirs and White House records, compiling the most extensive biography of Nancy Reagan yet. **Patt Morrison** sits down with Tumulty to talk about how, from the AIDS epidemic to tensions with the Soviets and the war on drugs, Nancy Reagan became one of the most influential first ladies of the last century.



Photo: Diana Walker/Time Life Pictures

We Are the Weather

Jonathan Safran Foer with Zoe Lukov
Thursday 8:30–9:15 am

Joan Didion Room



The New York Times bestselling fiction writer **Jonathan Safran Foer** re-evaluated his meat-based diet—and his conscience—in his powerful memoir and investigative report, *Eating Animals*. Now he offers a mind-bending and potentially world-changing call to action on climate change. A significant proportion of global carbon emissions come from farming meat. Giving up meat is incredibly hard, and nobody is perfect—but just cutting back is much easier and still has a huge positive effect on the environment. Simply changing our dinners—eliminating meat for one meal per day—is enough to change the world. **Zoe Lukov** joins Foer to talk about his diverse body of work from his bestselling novel *Everything is Illuminated* to his focus on the environment and his conscience.

Thursday 9:30–10:15 am
Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory

Photo: Gmphp1/Wikimedia



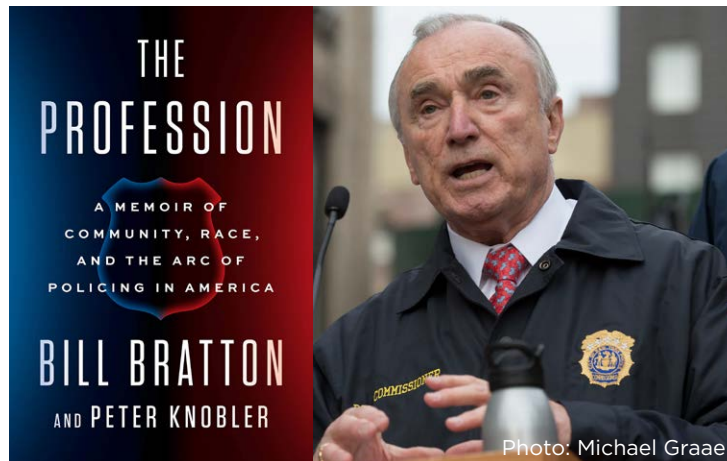
Politics Today

Hon. Barbara Boxer, James Carville, Karl Rove and Philip Rucker with Bret Stephens (moderator)
Thursday 9:30–10:15 am
Jack London Room

Join us for up-to-the-minute and in-depth analyses on the latest news—covering elections, the White House, Congress, the Supreme Court and more. Our panelists are experts, opinion makers and journalists. Please join **Hon. Barbara Boxer**, former U.S. Senator from California; **James Carville**, political consultant and campaign strategist; **Karl Rove**, Republican political consultant, policy advisor and lobbyist; and **Philip Rucker**, deputy national editor at *The Washington Post*. Moderated by *New York Times* op-ed columnist **Bret Stephens**.

The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

This session will be simulcast in
the new Outdoor Pavilion for Readers



America's Top Cop

William Bratton with Douglas Brunt
Thursday 9:30–10:15 am
John Steinbeck Room

William Bratton is the only person to lead the police departments of America's two largest cities—New York (twice) and Los Angeles. His 46-year career in law enforcement is marked by transformative leadership and a sharp reduction in crime. As “America's Top Cop,” Bratton has translated crisis into opportunity at every stage of his career, demonstrating the power of optimistic leadership and strategic, turn-around team management. He is the author of several bestselling books chronicling his career in law enforcement. He speaks with **Douglas Brunt**, a *New York Times* bestselling novelist.



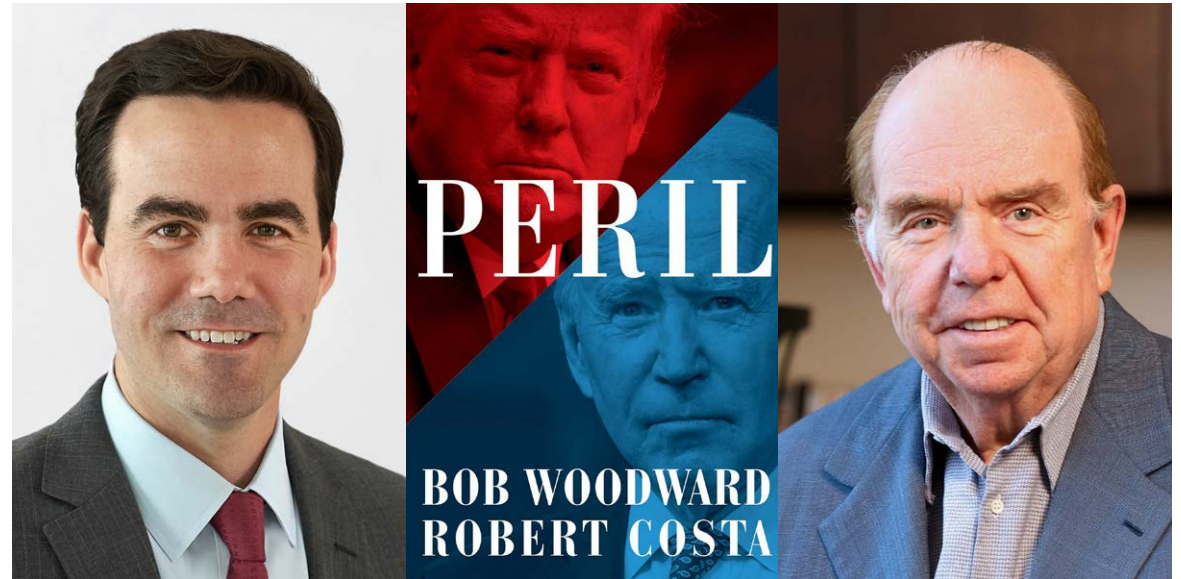
Peril

Robert Costa with Robert Shrum

Thursday 9:30-10:15 am

Walt Disney Room

Washington Post associate editor and Watergate legend Bob Woodward and *Washington Post* national political reporter **Robert Costa** have teamed up to author *Peril*, which takes readers deep inside the Trump and Biden administrations and the transition between the two. Having interviewed over 200 insiders, Costa discusses what he considers to be one of the most dangerous periods in American history. Their classic study of Washington takes us deep inside the Trump White House, the Biden White House, the 2020 campaign and the Pentagon and Congress, with vivid, eyewitness accounts of what really happened. Costa is joined by **Robert Shrum**, political insider and Director of the Center for the Political Future at USC.



Original image: trueroyalty.tv



The Future of the Monarchy

Sally Bedell Smith with Patt Morrison

Thursday 9:30-10:15 am

Joan Didion Room

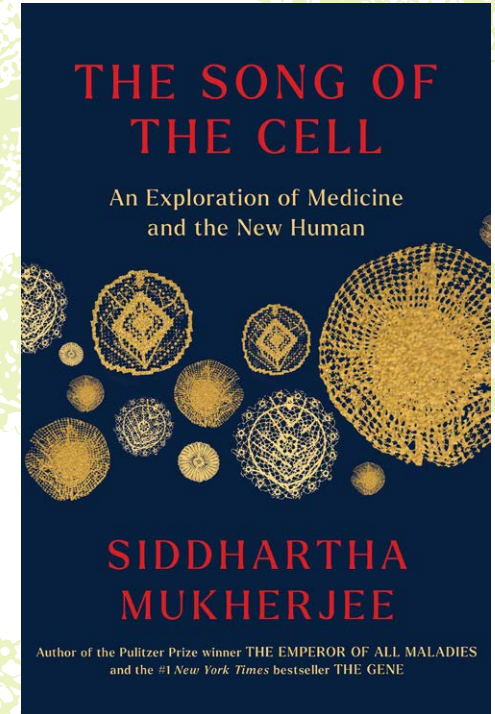
Join us for a look at the state of today's British monarchy, how the past has shaped it and how it will secure its survival, if at all, in the future. **Sally Bedell Smith** is the author of the bestselling biographies of Princess Diana, Queen Elizabeth II and King Charles. **Patt Morrison** is a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer, columnist for the *Los Angeles Times* and royal family expert. They will discuss the reasons the British monarchy has lasted longer than any other, the loss of England's longest reigning monarch Queen Elizabeth II, King Charles III and what the future holds for the next generation of royals.

Thursday 10:30–11:15 am
Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory



“Down to their innate molecular core, cancer cells are hyperactive, survival-endowed, scrappy, fecund, inventive copies of ourselves.”

— Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee



The Song of the Cell

Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee with Judy Woodruff

Thursday 10:30–11:15 am

Jack London Room

RMWF is proud to welcome **Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee**, author of *The Emperor of All Maladies* (winner of the Pulitzer Prize) and *The Gene: An Intimate History* (a number one *New York Times* bestseller) as he discusses his most spectacular book yet—an exploration of medicine and our radical new ability to manipulate cells. Rich with revelatory and exhilarating stories of scientists, doctors and the patients whose lives may be saved by their work, *The Song of the Cell* is Dr. Mukherjee’s third book in this extraordinary writer’s exploration of what it means to be human. Dr. Mukherjee is an assistant professor of medicine at Columbia University and a cancer physician and researcher. A Rhodes scholar, he graduated from Stanford University, University of Oxford and Harvard Medical School. He is joined in conversation by **Judy Woodruff**, former anchor and managing editor of the PBS *NewsHour*. Woodruff will host a new PBS series *Judy Woodruff Presents: America at a Crossroads* starting in 2023.

The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

This session will be simulcast in

the new Outdoor Pavilion for Readers



The Art of Biography

Douglas Brinkley, Nigel Hamilton, Jon Meacham and Sally Bedell Smith with Pamela Paul (moderator)

Thursday 10:30–11:15 am

John Steinbeck Room

Biographers pursue the truth through understanding the lives of others. They can bring a reader closer to a part of history that once seemed distant or enrich a figure we thought was familiar with new insight. Writing about the lives of others is often the work of a lifetime and a passion for those who commit to it. Join us for this conversation about the art of biography with this group of dedicated biographers who have written, collectively, over 50 biographies, devoted to subjects ranging from Abraham Lincoln to Prince Charles, Rosa Parks to Pamela Churchill Harriman, and many more.



Writers on Writing

Susan Choi, Bernardine Evaristo and Jonathan Safran Foer with Mara Gladstone (moderator)

Thursday 10:30–11:15 am

Walt Disney Room

Join National Book Award-winner **Susan Choi**, Booker Prize-winner **Bernardine Evaristo** and Guardian First Book Award-winner **Jonathan Safran Foer** in a wide-ranging conversation with **Mara Gladstone** about their writing lives. Evaristo is the author of eight books and has dubbed her writing style “fusion fiction”: a free-flowing prose poetry. Her writing spans fiction, verse fiction, poetry, drama, essays, literary criticism and, most recently, biography. Choi is the author of five novels whose common theme is the exploration of identity and the impact of the political sphere upon personal life. Foer is best known for his novels *Everything Is Illuminated*, *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* and *Here I Am* and for his nonfiction works *Eating Animals* and *We Are the Weather: Saving the Planet Begins at Breakfast*.

Washington and Eisenhower: American Brothers in Arms

Rick Atkinson

Thursday 10:30–11:15 am

Joan Didion Room

Twelve U.S. presidents have served as military generals before becoming the nation’s chief executive, but none have had greater success in parlaying their battlefield leadership skills than George Washington and Dwight D. Eisenhower. Separated by more than a century and a half—Washington born in 1732 and Eisenhower in 1890—they could hardly have come from more dissimilar backgrounds. One was a wealthy, slave-owning Virginia planter—the other had a very modest upbringing in rural Kansas. Neither was more than a mediocre combat tactician. Yet destiny led them both to high rank and stellar achievement in wartime when the stakes could not have been higher. What traits did they share that helped them rise to the occasion, and what does their ascendance tell us about the American way of war? Pulitzer prize-winning author and military historian **Rick Atkinson**, who has spent more than two decades writing trilogies about World War II and the American Revolution, looks for answers.



Washington (painting: Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze)



Eisenhower as a four-star General circa 1943

Thursday 11:30 am–12:15 pm
Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory



The New York Times

Women in the News

Donna Brazile and Maureen Dowd with Judy Woodruff (moderator)

Thursday 11:30 am–12:15 pm

Jack London Room

Please welcome three of the most recognized names in journalism today: **Donna Brazile**, **Maureen Dowd** and **Judy Woodruff**. Between them, these women have decades of experience as journalists covering politics, presidential elections and change makers. Woodruff moderates this discussion on some of the unique challenges women face in the media and what has changed over the years.

The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

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the new Outdoor Pavilion for Readers



In His Defense

Alan Dershowitz with Rikki Klieman

Thursday 11:30 am–12:15 pm

John Steinbeck Room

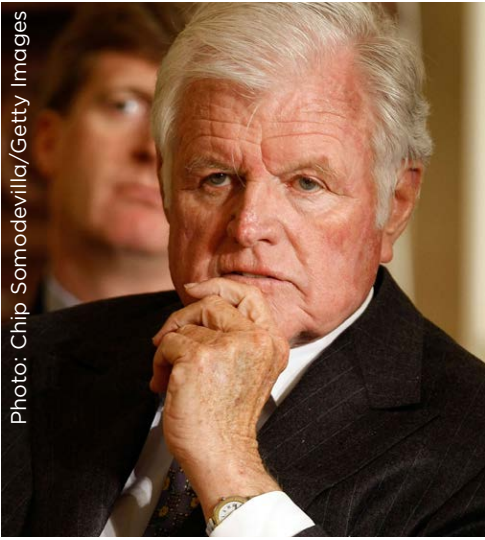


With client O.J. Simpson
1995 (photo: Reuters)



Alan Dershowitz is widely known for his high-profile criminal cases and celebrity clients including Mike Tyson, Patty Hearst and Jim Bakker. His most notable cases included the successful appeal of Claus von Bülow's 1982 conviction for the attempted murder of his wife, Sunny, and the 1995 O. J. Simpson murder trial, in which he served on the legal "Dream Team," alongside Johnnie Cochran and F. Lee Bailey. **Rikki Klieman**, a criminal defense attorney and legal analyst for CBS News, speaks with Dershowitz about his most infamous cases.

Photo: Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images



Ted Kennedy: The Lion of the Senate

John A. Farrell and Congressman Joseph Kennedy III with Robert Shrum (moderator)

Thursday 11:30 am-12:15 pm

Walt Disney Room

John A. Farrell's magnificent new biography of Edward M. Kennedy is the first single-volume life of the great figure since his death. Farrell's long acquaintance with the Kennedy universe helped garner him access to a remarkable range of new sources, including segments of Kennedy's personal diary and his private confessions to members of his family in the days that followed the accident on Chappaquiddick. Farrell discusses the famously epic and turbulent life of almost unimaginable tragedy and triumph with Ted Kennedy's nephew **Congressman Joseph Kennedy III** and **Robert Shrum**, Senator Ted Kennedy's speechwriter and press secretary in the 1980s.

There There

Tommy Orange with Zoe Lukov

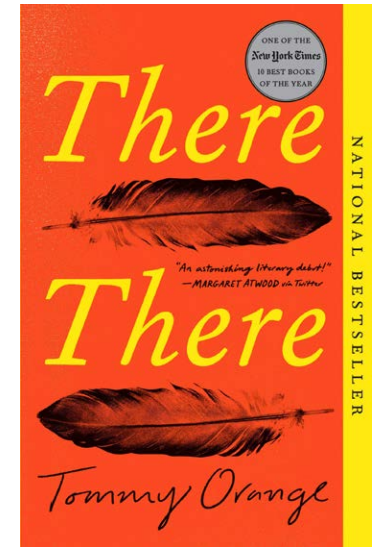
Thursday 11:30 am-12:15 pm

Joan Didion Room

Tommy Orange is part of a new generation of indigenous writers from the United States and Canada who are publishing groundbreaking, formally innovative poetry, fiction and prose, shattering old tropes and stereotypes about Native American literature, experience and identity. *There There*, Orange's award-winning debut novel, follows a dozen Native American characters whose lives converge at a big powwow at the Oakland Coliseum and who are connected to one another in ways they may not yet realize. This chorus of voices tells of the plight of the urban Native American—grappling with a complex and painful history, with an inheritance of beauty and spirituality. **Zoe Lukov** talks with Orange about his award-winning novel and what he is working on next.



Photo: Elena Seibert



LUNCH

12:15 pm: Join us outside for a delicious boxed lunch of your choice. Sponsored by Marcy and Leo Edelstein and sponsored in tribute to Dorothy Goldstein from the Goldstein Family.

Thursday 1-1:45 pm
Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory

The Hack Looks Back

James Carville

Thursday 1-1:45 pm

Jack London Room

The legendary, provocative and always timely **James Carville** takes a look back at his illustrious career, spanning more than five decades, and recounts significant moments forever framed in his memory. During this time he'll also provide his captivating views on American and international politics, spiced with his own unique brand of optimism and humor.

The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

This session will be simulcast in

the new Outdoor Pavilion for Readers

“ Last night on CNN, Bernie [Sanders] called me a political hack. That’s exactly who the f**k I am! I am a political hack! I am not an ideologue. I am not a purist. He thinks it’s a pejorative. I kinda like it!”

—James Carville



Photo: Lynne Sladky/AP Photo

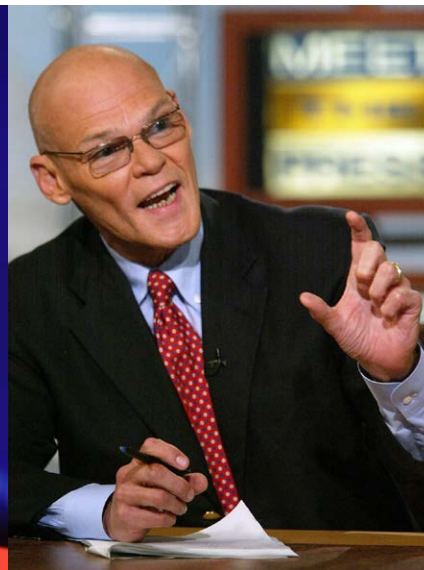


Photo: Alex Wong/Getty Images



Photo: Jason Kempin/Politicon/Getty Images

I Alone Can Fix It: Donald J. Trump's Catastrophic Final Year

Philip Rucker with Karen Tumulty

Thursday 1-1:45 pm

John Steinbeck Room

The true story of what took place in Donald Trump's White House during a disastrous 2020 had never before been told in full. What was really going on around the president, as the government failed to contain the coronavirus and over half a million Americans perished? Who was influencing Trump after he refused to concede an election he had clearly lost and spread lies about election fraud? *Washington Post* deputy national editor **Philip Rucker** and coauthor Carol Leonnig's research is based on hundreds of hours of interviews with more than 140 people, including the most senior Trump administration officials, friends and outside advisers to the 45th president. Rucker is joined by deputy editorial page editor for *The Washington Post* **Karen Tumulty** to discuss a dysfunctional and bumbling presidency's inner workings in unprecedented, stunning detail.



General William Tecumseh Sherman, Geronimo and the War for America

H.W. Brands

Thursday 1-1:45 pm

Walt Disney Room

Bestselling historian and Pulitzer Prize-finalist **H.W. Brands** follows the lives of General William Tecumseh Sherman and Apache leader Goyathlay (known by his nickname "Geronimo") to tell the story of the Indian Wars and the final fight for control of the American continent. Sherman and Geronimo were keen strategists and bold soldiers, ruthless with their enemies. Over the course of the 1870s and 1880s these two leaders would confront each other in the final battle for what the American West would be: a sparsely settled, wild home where Indigenous American tribes could thrive or a more densely populated extension of the America to the east of the Mississippi. Please join RMWF fan favorite H.W. Brands to learn about this turning point in the making of our nation.

Why We Read

Pamela Paul with Dr. Carla Hayden

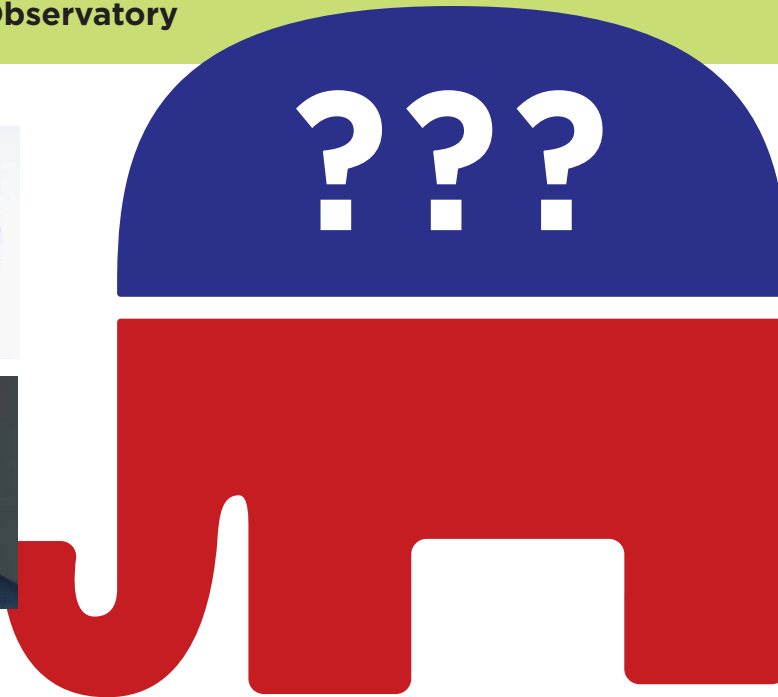
Thursday 1-1:45 pm

Joan Didion Room

Pamela Paul is the author of eight books, including *How To Raise a Reader* and *Rectangle Time*. She was the editor of *The New York Times Book Review* for nine years and oversaw all book coverage at *The New York Times*, which she joined in 2011 as the children's books editor. She was also the longtime host of the weekly book review podcast. She is joined in a conversation about the joy of reading by **Dr. Carla Hayden**, Librarian of Congress, fellow lover of reading, books and libraries.



Thursday 2–2:45 pm
Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory



The Future of the GOP

Peter Baker, Susan Glasser, Tim Miller and Karl Rove and with Mike Murphy (moderator)

Thursday 2–2:45 pm

Jack London Room

One of the biggest stories in U.S. politics right now is the future of the Republican Party, and the bottom line is: it's complicated. Our panelists representing both sides of the aisle will share their views on where the GOP is headed, who will lead them and what that means for democracy. **Peter Baker** is the chief White House correspondent for *The New York Times* and a political analyst for MSNBC. **Susan Glasser** is a staff writer for *The New Yorker* and co-author of *The Divider: Trump in the White House*. **Tim Miller** is a former Republican political operative and author of *Why We Did It: A Travelogue from the Republican Road to Hell*. **Karl Rove** is a Republican political consultant, policy advisor, lobbyist, Fox News contributor and *Wall Street Journal* columnist. Moderator **Mike Murphy** is a Republican political consultant and Co-Director of the Center for the Political Future at USC. Please join this distinguished panel for what promises to be a fascinating and informative discussion.

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the new Outdoor Pavilion for Readers



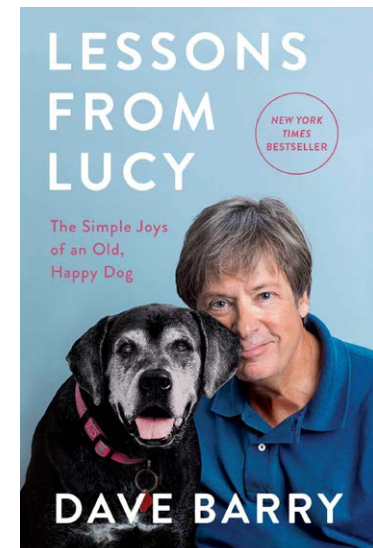
Lessons from Lucy

Dave Barry

Thursday 2–2:45 pm

John Steinbeck Room

In *Lessons from Lucy*, Pulitzer Prize–winning columnist and *New York Times* bestselling author **Dave Barry** learns how to age happily from his old but joyful dog, Lucy. As Barry turns seventy—not happily—he realizes that his dog, Lucy, is dealing with old age far better than he is. She has more friends, fewer worries and way more fun. He tries to figure out how Lucy manages to stay so happy and to see if he can make his own life happier by doing the things she does (except for drinking from the toilet). Please join Dave as he riffs hilariously on dogs, people, and life in general, while also pondering Deep Questions, such as when it's okay to lie. (Answer: when scallops are involved.)



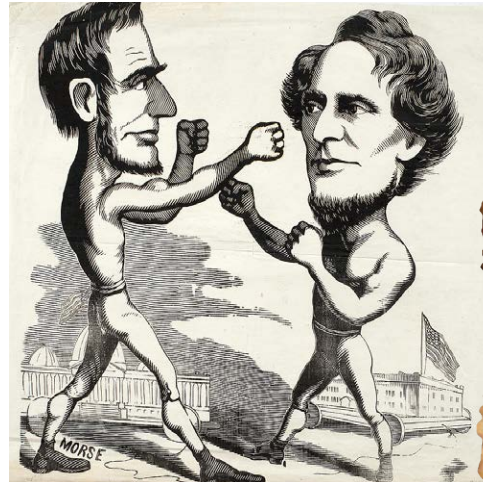
Lincoln vs. Davis: The Struggle Between the Presidents

Nigel Hamilton

Thursday 2-2:45 pm

Walt Disney Room

One of the greatest ironies of the American Civil War is that both Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis were both born in Kentucky. The two men who would lead Americans in the most titanic struggle in our history were born about a hundred miles apart. Davis, the President of the Confederacy, fought the war based in Richmond, and his White House was just 100 miles from the White House in Washington where President Lincoln directed the Union's war effort. The Civil War and the battle for the soul of America lasted five years, and roughly 2% of the population, an estimated 620,000 men, lost their lives. Please welcome historian **Nigel Hamilton** as he discusses his latest book, *Lincoln vs. Davis: The Struggle Between the Presidents*.



An 1861 cartoon of Lincoln and Davis (image: Getty Images)

An map of the United States at the time of the Civil War



Susan Choi

Susan Choi with Mara Gladstone

Thursday 2-2:45 pm

Joan Didion Room

Susan Choi is the award-winning author of five bestselling novels. Since her first novel, *The Foreign Student*, was published in 1998, Choi has steadily turned out increasingly complex and bold books that often take historical events or figures as source material. Her second novel, *American Woman*, was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 2004, and she has received fellowships from both the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation. Her fifth novel, *Trust Exercise*, won the 2019 National Book Award. Please join Choi and **Mara Gladstone** in conversation about her writing life and what's next.



Thursday 3–3:45 pm Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory

Law and Order

William Bratton, Maureen Dowd, Linda Fairstein and Rikki Klieman with Douglas Brunt (moderator)

Thursday 3–4 pm

Jack London Room

Most Americans say maintaining law and order in the United States has become a major problem in the wake of protests and demonstrations over racial injustice, gun control, police reform and mass incarceration coupled with increasing crime rates and the deepening political divide. These are just some of the hot-button issues our informed panelists will address. **William Bratton** is the former police commissioner of both New York City and Los Angeles and author of *The Profession*; **Maureen Dowd** is a Pulitzer Prize-winning op-ed columnist for *The New York Times* whose father was a Washington D.C. police inspector; **Linda Fairstein** is an author, attorney and former head of the sex crimes unit of the Manhattan District Attorney's office; and **Rikki Klieman** is a legal analyst for CBS News. **Douglas Brunt** moderates.

The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

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the new Outdoor Pavilion for Readers



Police officers walk towards the U.S. Capitol as protesters enter the building on January 6, 2021, in Washington (photo: Tasos Katopodis)

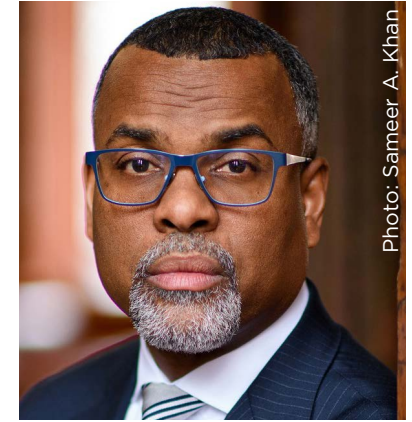


Photo: Sameer A. Khan

Black and Blue

Donna Brazile and Eddie S. Glaude Jr.

Thursday 3–3:45 pm

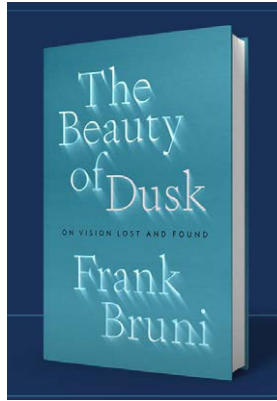
John Steinbeck Room

Two of our country's most respected voices on being Black in America take our stage to talk about what it means to be black and blue in America today. Please join **Donna Brazile**, veteran Democratic political strategist, professor, author, syndicated columnist and television political commentator, and **Eddie S. Glaude Jr.**, chair of the Department of African American Studies at Princeton University, educator, author and political commentator, in a conversation about race, class, equality and power.

“

The task at hand is not about securing the goodness of the American Idea or about perfecting the union. It is about according dignity and standing to all Americans no matter the color of their skin.

— **Eddie S. Glaude Jr.**, *Democracy in Black: How Race Still Enslaves the American Soul*



The Beauty of Dusk

Frank Bruni and Karen Tumulty

Thursday 3-3:45 pm

Walt Disney Room

Frank Bruni has been a prominent journalist for more than three decades, including more than twenty-five years at *The New York Times*, the last ten of them as a nationally renowned op-ed columnist. He was also a White House correspondent for the *Times*, its Rome bureau chief and, for five years, its chief restaurant critic. During his long career as a writer, Bruni has followed presidential candidates across America, rattled the nerves of New York City restaurateurs, dodged Scud missiles in Saudi Arabia, snooped around the Vatican and opined on everything from football to the debased state of American political discourse. He is also the author of four *New York Times* bestsellers including his recent memoir, *The Beauty of Dusk*. He is joined in conversation by **Karen Tumulty**, deputy editorial page editor for *The Washington Post*, to talk about the challenges he faced after waking up one morning with limited vision in one eye... and learning that it might happen to the other and how that changed the way he saw the world.

“*The Beauty of Dusk... isn't the sad story of a man who lost his sight; it is the generous narrative of a student who sought wisdom when trials appeared in his life.*” — Min Jin Lee for *The New York Times*

Politics, Pundits and Poets: Encounters in the Public Square

Jeffrey Brown with Justice Douglas Miller

Thursday 3-3:45 pm

Joan Didion Room

In his position as co-anchor and senior correspondent for the *PBS NewsHour*, **Jeffrey Brown** has had unprecedented access to many of today's leading politicians and artists, as well as people high and low across a wide swath of contemporary life. As arts correspondent, he has profiled many of the world's leading writers, musicians, actors and other artists. Brown is the author of *The News*, a collection of poems that reflects back on the world he has seen, the events he has experienced and the people he has encountered. He speaks with **Justice Douglas Miller** about some of his most memorable interviews.



Brown interviewing John Grisham (photo: Twitter)

Friday 8:30–9:15 am

Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory

Bret Stephens

Bret Stephens

Friday 8:30–9:15 am

Jack London Room

Pulitzer Prize winner and *New York Times* columnist **Bret Stephens** opens day three of the Festival addressing the critical issues facing our world today. Stephens writes and speaks on issues from the point of view of a traditional conservative, often finding himself at odds with both extremes of the political spectrum and beloved by those prepared for his thoughtful, nuanced debate. Please join him as he shares his insightful and candid views on who and where we are as a nation in this moment and what they may portend for the future.

The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

This session will be simulcast in

the new Outdoor Pavilion for Readers



Photo: William B. Plowman

“

If the Republican party essentially becomes the white party, it is going to be the death of it, not only for demographic reasons but for
REASONS OF PRINCIPLE.

The party of Lincoln is a party of opportunity for everyone. It's a party about
THE RIGHT TO RISE,
and Mr. Trump unfortunately doesn't represent that view.

—Bret Stephens

Silent Spring Revolution

Douglas Brinkley

Friday 8:30–9:15 am

John Steinbeck Room

New York Times bestselling author and acclaimed presidential historian **Douglas Brinkley** chronicles the rise of environmental activism during the Long Sixties (1960–1973), telling the story of an indomitable generation that saved the natural world under the leadership of John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon. His latest book, *Silent Spring Revolution*, pays tribute to those who combated the mauling of the natural world in the Long Sixties: Rachel Carson (marine biologist and author), David Brower (director of the Sierra Club), Barry Commoner (environmental justice advocate), Coretta Scott King (antinuclear activist), Stewart Udall (secretary of the interior), William O. Douglas (Supreme Court justice) and César Chávez (labor organizer). With the United States grappling with climate change and resource exhaustion, Brinkley reminds us that a new generation of twenty-first-century environmentalists can save the planet from ruin.

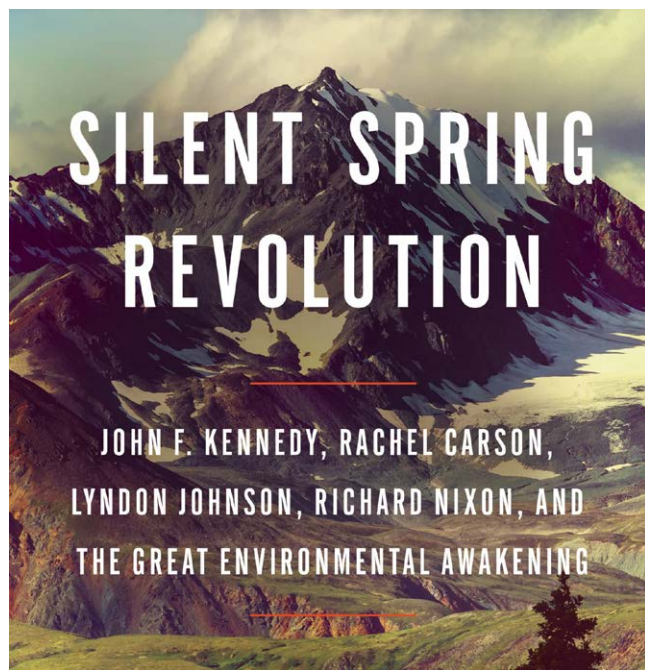


Photo: Dwight Eisenhower speaking to Easy Company men of the 502nd PIR of the U.S. 101st Airborne Division, RAF 1944 on the eve of D-Day (National Archives and Records Administration)

How Ike Led

Susan Eisenhower with Justice Douglas Miller

Friday 8:30–9:15 am

Walt Disney Room



President Dwight D. Eisenhower led America through a transformational time, from D-Day to Little Rock, from the Korean War to Cold War crises, from the Red Scare to the Missile Gap controversies. Ike was able to give our country eight years of peace and prosperity in part because he was a strategic leader, who relied on a rigorous pursuit of the facts for decision-making. After making a choice, he made himself accountable for it, recognizing that personal responsibility is the bedrock of sound principles. **Justice Douglas Miller** talks with Ike's granddaughter **Susan Eisenhower** about not just what a great American did, but why—and what we can learn from him today.

Millennials Will Run the World

Shane Feldman with Johan Sorensen

Friday 8:30–9:15 am

Joan Didion Room

Shane Feldman is a millennial who, at the age of 27, founded Count Me In, a youth-led organization whose mission is to inspire the next generation of community leaders.

Demographically, millennials are the largest generation in Western history, and by 2025, they will make up 40% of eligible voters and 75% of the global workforce. Their sheer numbers and unprecedented influence will dominate every aspect of culture, business and politics, just as the baby boomers have for the past 30 years. For all the negative press, millennials are actually highly educated, technologically savvy, civic oriented and entrepreneurial. Cue Feldman, who epitomizes all these qualities and has created an organization that has inspired tens of thousands of youth-led civics projects, equating to over 100 million hours of community service, worth \$2.4 billion. **Johan Sorensen** speaks with Feldman about his transformational journey from a survivor of betrayal, rejection and social isolation to an inspiring, motivated and visionary young leader.



Friday 9:30–10:15 am

Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory

Dinner and a Movie

Ben Mankiewicz and Ruth Reichl with
Dave Karger (moderator)

Friday 9:30–10:15 am

Jack London Room

Many award-winning movies have been made around food, chefs, restaurants and eventful dinners. We've asked our panelists, food critic **Ruth Reichl** and movie critic **Ben Mankiewicz**, to talk with Turner Classic Movies host **Dave Karger** about some of their favorite foodie movies, like *Babette's Feast*, *Big Night*, *Eat Drink Man Woman*, *Julie & Julia* and *La Grande Bouffe* to name a few. Join us for this delicious discussion that is sure to whet your appetite for dinner and a movie.

The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

This session will be simulcast in
the new Outdoor Pavilion for Readers



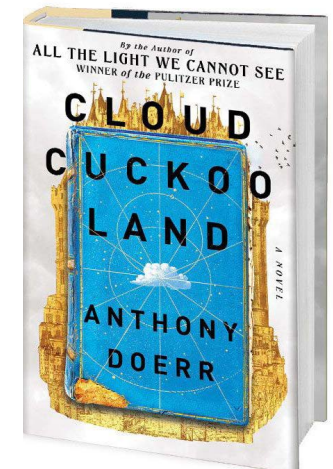
Cloud Cuckoo Land

Anthony Doerr

Friday 9:30–10:15 am

John Steinbeck Room

Photo: Shauna Doerr



Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Anthony Doerr** weaves improbably connected worlds together as he considers innocence and guilt, kindness and guile. In his recent book, *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, named as a best book of the year by many critics, Doerr takes us to the near future from the past and the present, with unforgettable characters. Doerr shows us that humanity can prevail, thanks to our common goodness, notwithstanding the nightmares around us. He uplifts us even as he reminds us of what we're capable of doing, for better or for worse. Doerr presents a lecture about his new work with some fun slides and will answer all your questions about *Cloud Cuckoo Land*.

“ A library, no matter how humble or grand, is a series of sacred gateways. You pass through them and leave your own city behind; you journey through time and space; and for a little while, you escape the confines of your own circumstances.” — Anthony Doerr, *Cloud Cuckoo Land*



The Rock Star Conductor

Teddy Abrams with
Corinna da Fonseca-Wollheim
Friday 9:30–10:15 am
Walt Disney Room

At age 35, Maestro **Teddy Abrams** is the youngest conductor of a major orchestra in the United States, and he's done what most orchestras are desperate to do: increased the audience, young and old. He has created innovative and bold interdisciplinary collaborations with the Louisville Ballet, the Center for Interfaith Relations, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the Speed Art Museum, rock musician Jim James and the Folger Shakespeare Library. He has also included Star Wars, rock, rap, hip-hop and country music in the orchestra's repertoire. **Corinna da Fonseca-Wollheim**, contributing classical music critic at *The New York Times*, talks with Abrams about his vision and plans for the future.



Feeling the Heat: The Fate of Food

Amanda Little with Dr. Joseph Scherger
Friday 9:30–10:15 am
Joan Didion Room

Global warming and dramatic changes in environmental conditions are threatening food production, resulting in declining yields. Journalist **Amanda Little** has researched this alarming trend and has spent the last five years visiting farmers and talking with Silicon Valley innovators to understand what it will take to feed nine billion people in this era of climate change. Join Little and physician **Dr. Joseph Scherger**, who has a special interest in nutrition to reverse disease, as they discuss how AI, robotics and chemistry are transforming agriculture and the future of food.

Friday 10:30–11:15 am
Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory

The Future of Medicine

Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee, Dr. Azra Raza and Dr. Eric Topol with Dr. Khoi Le (moderator)

Friday 10:30–11:15 am

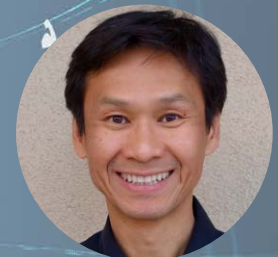
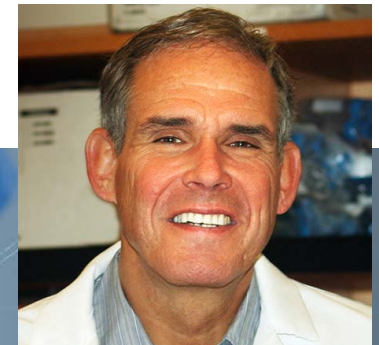
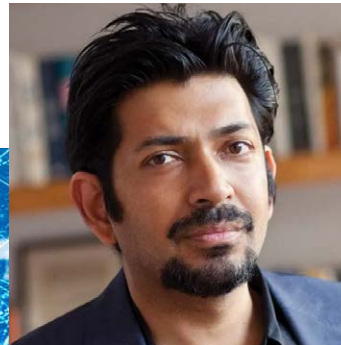
Jack London Room

For years, biology and disease appeared too big to tackle with millions of genome variants, tens of thousands of disease-associated genes, thousands of cell types and an almost unimaginable number of ways they can combine. Doctors had to approximate a best starting point—choose one target, guess the cell, simplify the experiment. But we are on the cusp of an inflection point seeing advances towards understanding the cell and genes through genome-wide studies and finding cures for diseases that have been so confounding. Our distinguished panelists are **Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee**, assistant professor of medicine at Columbia University and a cancer physician and researcher; **Dr. Azra Raza**, oncologist and Director of Myelodysplastic Syndrome Center at Columbia University; and **Dr. Eric Topol**, cardiologist and founder and director of the Scripps Research Translational Institute. They are joined by our own **Dr. Khoi Le**, cardiologist at Eisenhower Health, to discuss what will shape the next few decades of medical research.

The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

This session will be simulcast in

the new Outdoor Pavilion for Readers



The Woman Behind the Byline: Meet Maureen Dowd

Maureen Dowd with Shawn McCreesh
Friday 10:30–11:15 am
John Steinbeck Room

Maureen Dowd's byline is everywhere these days, from her weekly *New York Times* opinion piece to her extensive number of celebrity profiles and interviews. In the fall of 2022 alone, she traveled the world to interview Tom Stoppard in the UK, Jann Wenner in the Hamptons, Christine Baranski in Manhattan and *Vogue's* Edward Enninful in London. She sits down with friend and former *New York Times* colleague **Shawn McCreesh** to talk about her life and exciting career to reveal the woman behind the byline. Dowd is the winner of the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for distinguished commentary, author of three *New York Times* bestsellers and covers American politics, popular culture and international affairs for *The New York Times*. Shawn McCreesh is a features writer for *New York* magazine and former editorial assistant to Maureen Dowd.



The Future of the Royals: The Next Generation

Omid Scobie with Patt Morrison
Friday 10:30–11:15 am
Walt Disney Room

In the wake of Queen Elizabeth II's death, the future of the British monarchy feels less certain than ever. King Charles III inherits the throne at a time when the monarchy as an institution is still broadly supported in Britain. But the outpouring of support and admiration for the Queen should not be mistaken for unwavering support for the royal family as a whole, especially after the fallout over the treatment of Prince Harry and Meghan. Veteran royal journalist **Omid Scobie** has covered the royal family for over ten years and has had unique access to the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. Scobie is joined by **Patt Morrison**, Pulitzer Prize-winning writer, columnist for the *Los Angeles Times* and royal family expert. Please join them as they discuss the future of the monarchy and what that means for the next generation of royals.



Photos: Getty Images

Social Acoustics

Corinna da Fonseca-Wollheim
Friday 10:30–11:15 am
Joan Didion Room



Photo: beginnersear.com

What are the qualities that go into good listening? Most would insist on a certain degree of focus. (No phone under the table.) Patience might be part of it: a listener who doesn't jump in before you are done. And there's probably a sense of generosity, a judgment-free attitude. A good listener will take in more of what you have to communicate than a distracted one. But good listening doesn't just affect the reception of a given message. It helps shape the message itself. Think about it: if you are trying to express something personal and important, a good listener will make you feel safe to take risks. To explore nuances. Show vulnerability. The same is true in music. Performers don't just sound better in a hall with great acoustics, where the architecture highlights all the juicy overtones of their instruments. They also sound better in front of an audience that is curious, open-hearted and focused. To bring out the rich range of overtones in any human communication, you need the right social acoustics. **Corinna da Fonseca-Wollheim**, contributing classical music critic at *The New York Times*, explains how.



50th Anniversary of *The Godfather*

Peter Bart and Ben Mankiewicz

Friday 11:30 am–12:15 pm

Jack London Room

Widely regarded as one of the greatest films of all time, this mob drama, based on Mario Puzo's novel of the same name, focuses on the powerful Italian-American crime family of Don Vito Corleone (Marlon Brando). When the don's youngest son, Michael (Al Pacino), reluctantly joins the Mafia, he becomes involved in the inevitable cycle of violence and betrayal. The film garnered three Academy Awards, five Golden Globe Awards and numerous other awards for best actor, best picture as well as best film adaptation. **Peter Bart** was Paramount's vice president of production when he obtained the rights to Mario Puzo's unfinished novel and history was made. **Ben Mankiewicz**, the award-winning host of Turner Classic Movies, discusses the true behind-the-scenes story of the making of *The Godfather* with Bart.

The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

This session will be simulcast in

the new Outdoor Pavilion for Readers

The Future of the Planet

Amanda Little and Jennifer Morris with Douglas Brinkley (moderator)

Friday 11:30 am–12:15 pm

John Steinbeck Room

As the new year gets underway, the world continues to grapple with a number of all too familiar challenges—global pandemics, resurgent wildfires, enduring crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and waste. Our panelists will discuss what can and must be done to mitigate these problems and offer their expertise, perspective and opinions about the future of our planet. **Amanda Little** is the author of *The Fate of Food: What We'll Eat in a Bigger, Hotter, Smarter World*. **Jennifer Morris** is the CEO of The Nature Conservancy. Moderated by **Douglas Brinkley**, author of *Silent Spring Revolution*.



Writers on Writing

Joshua Cohen, Junot Díaz and Tommy Orange with
Dr. Khoi Le (moderator)

Friday 11:30 am–12:15 pm

Walt Disney Room

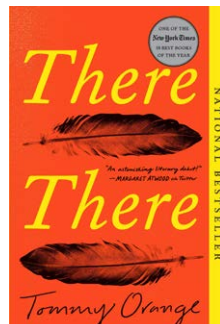
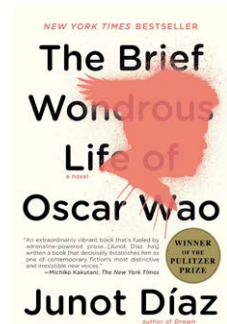
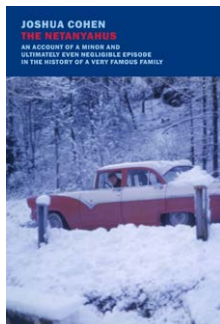


Photo: Adam Gong

Photo: Brian Harkin

Photo: Elena Seibert

Please join award-winning authors **Joshua Cohen**, **Junot Díaz** and **Tommy Orange** in a wide-ranging conversation about their writing lives, inspirations and process. Winner of the 2022 Pulitzer Prize for fiction for his novel *The Netanyahu*, Cohen was awarded Israel's 2013 Matanel Prize for Jewish Writers and in 2017 was named one of *Granta's* Best Young American Novelists. A Pulitzer Prize recipient for his novel *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, Díaz currently teaches at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is the fiction editor of *Boston Review*. Orange grew up in Oakland and is a member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes. His debut novel, *There There*, was a *New York Times* bestseller, a *New York Times* Ten Best Books of the Year and winner of the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize.



Why We Did It: Inside the New Republican Party

Tim Miller with Robert Shrum

Friday 11:30 am–12:15 pm

Joan Didion Room

To former Republican political consultant **Tim Miller**, what it means to be Republican has changed. Starting in the early 2000s, a lack of strategic decision making within the Republican Party set the stage for Donald Trump to take over the party Miller once loved. He has one simple question: “why did normal people go along with the worst of Trumpism?” In his new book *Why We Did It*, Miller cuts through two decades of political shifts, compromises and decisions made by the GOP that set it on a collision course with Trumpism and led to the events of January 6. Join us as Miller recounts the roadmap of how we got here, and what the story of one of the greatest party shifts in American history can tell us about the future of the nation.



CLOSING LUNCH

12:15 pm: Join us outside for a delicious
boxed lunch of your choice. Sponsored by
Katherine and Judd Malkin.

Friday 1-1:45 pm

Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory

Fran Lebowitz and Jeffrey Brown

Fran Lebowitz with Jeffrey Brown

Friday 1-1:45 pm

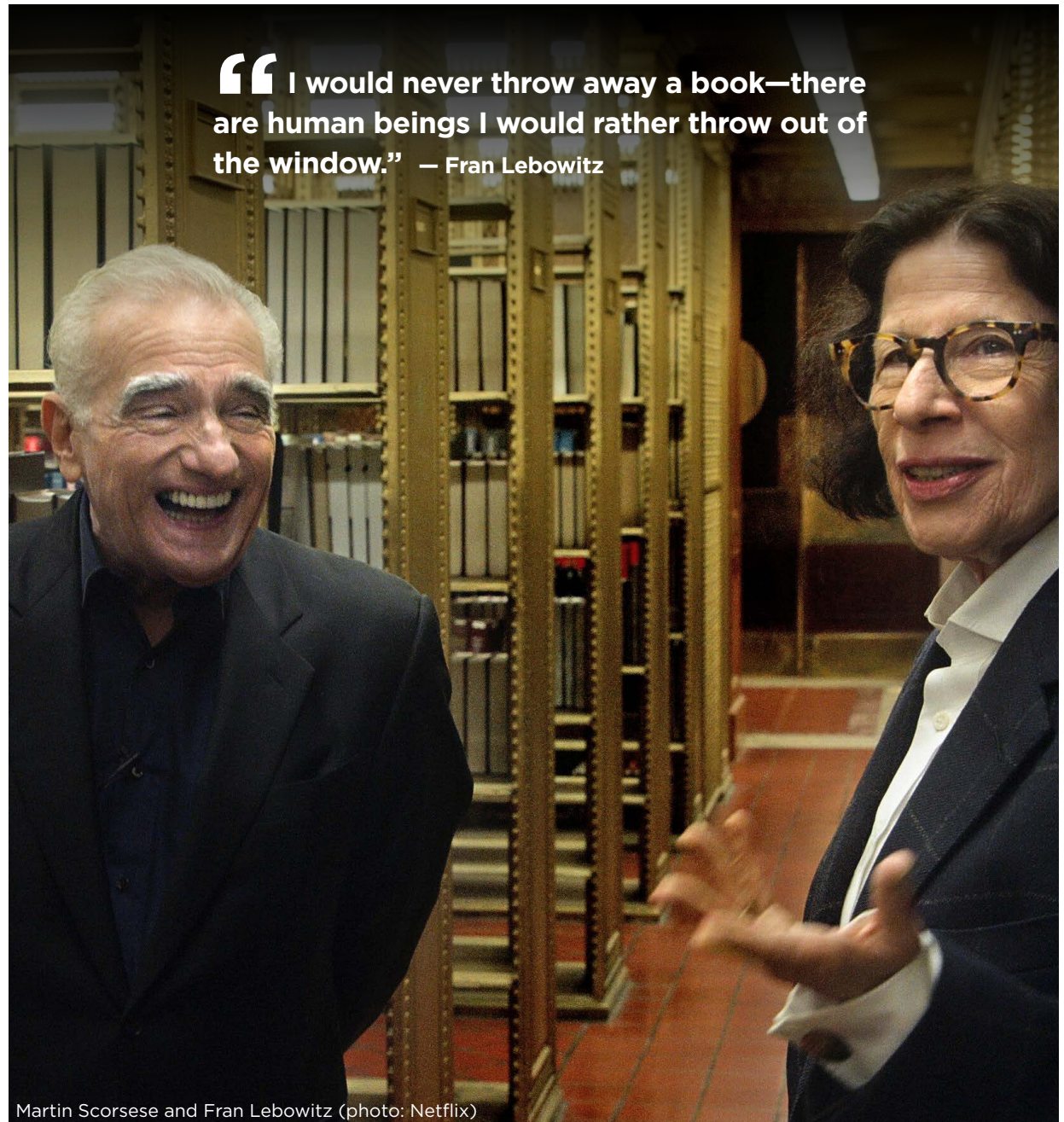
Jack London Room

In a cultural landscape filled with endless pundits and talking heads, **Fran Lebowitz** stands out as one of our most insightful social commentators. Her essays and interviews offer her acerbic views on current events and the media—as well as pet peeves including tourists, baggage-claim areas, after-shave lotion, adults who roller skate, children who speak French or anyone who is unduly tan. *The New York Times Book Review* calls Lebowitz an “important humorist in the classic tradition.” Purveyor of urban cool, Lebowitz is a cultural satirist whom many call the heir to Dorothy Parker. Her Emmy-nominated limited documentary series, *Pretend It’s a City*, directed by Martin Scorsese, is streaming now on Netflix. Chief arts correspondent for PBS *NewsHour* **Jeffrey Brown** joins Lebowitz for possibly the most entertaining session of the Festival.

The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

This session will be simulcast in

the new Outdoor Pavilion for Readers



“ I would never throw away a book—there are human beings I would rather throw out of the window.” — Fran Lebowitz

Martin Scorsese and Fran Lebowitz (photo: Netflix)

A Brave New World: Living with Pandemics

Dr. Eric Topol with Dr. Khoi Le

Friday 1-1:45 pm

John Steinbeck Room

Since the arrival of Covid-19 in 2020, **Dr. Eric Topol** has become a trusted source of information about the virus: how we, as a country, should respond to the pandemic, treatment options and what to expect next. He appears frequently on CNN, MSNBC and numerous other news outlets. His principal scientific focus has been on the genomic and digital tools to individualize medicine. In addition, he is the author of three bestselling books. He sits down with **Dr. Khoi Le** to discuss how this global pandemic has changed our lives and whether the changes are here to stay.



Jennifer Morris: The Nature Conservancy's Impatient Optimist

Jennifer Morris with Douglas Brinkley

Friday 1-1:45 pm

Walt Disney Room

Jennifer Morris started her storied career in conservation working with communities in rural Namibia before going on to eventually helm some of the leading international conservation NGOs. In that time, Morris, now the CEO of The Nature Conservancy, has seen things change—though “not fast enough”—in terms of achieving equity and diversity in the conservation space. **Douglas Brinkley**, historian, educator and author of *Silent Spring Revolution*, talks with Morris about the conservation sector’s long-overdue reckoning with humanity’s relationship with the environment, and why she is an “impatient optimist.”

“For decades, protecting nature has come at the expense of the original stewards of land and waters—or prioritized over addressing environmental impacts that disproportionately hurt underserved communities.”

— Jennifer Morris

The Nature Conservancy 



Becoming FDR: The Making of a President

Jonathan Darman with

Justice Douglas Miller

Friday 1-1:45 pm

Joan Didion Room



At age 39, Franklin Roosevelt saw his life upended by a sudden, devastating infection from the polio virus. The catastrophic illness looked like the end of his political career. Instead, it made him into the man who could lead his country through its own darkest hours. Journalist and historian **Jonathan Darman** discusses FDR’s years of illness, recovery and his return to the heights of power. His recently published book, *Becoming FDR*, is a fresh look at the iconic president, his family and his rivals and uncovers the clear and striking connection between his private struggles and his later public triumphs.

He's Baaaack! (Again)

Dave Barry

Friday 2-3 pm

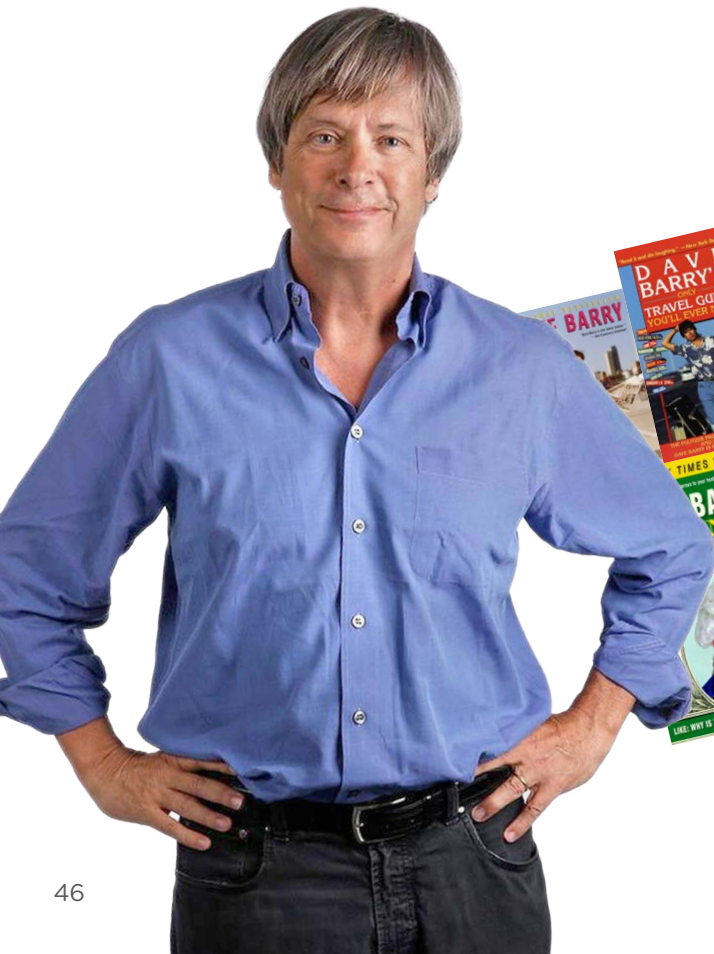
Jack London Room

Our favorite funnyman **Dave Barry** returns to Rancho Mirage after a brief hiatus. Please welcome him back as he regales us with brand new stories about life in South Florida, lessons he's learned from his dog Lucy and much more. Be prepared to laugh!

The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

This session will be simulcast in

the new Outdoor Pavilion for Readers



David Duchovny and Maureen Dowd in Conversation

David Duchovny and Maureen Dowd

Friday 2-2:45 pm

John Steinbeck Room

Here is something you probably know about **David Duchovny**: he played one of the 1990s' most iconic roles, FBI agent Fox Mulder in *The X-Files*. But here is something you probably don't know about him: only six years before his big acting break he was a PhD student studying literature at Yale University, planning on becoming a writer. In fact, he wanted to be a poet. Duchovny earned a BA in English literature from Princeton University and an MA in English literature from Yale University and has since published six novels. **Maureen Dowd**, a Pulitzer Prize-winning op-ed columnist for *The New York Times* covering American politics, popular culture and international affairs, joins Duchovny to talk about his latest book, *The Reservoir*, his life and his career in the arts.



Photo: Mark Mann



Photo: *The New York Times*



The Real SVU

Linda Fairstein with Rikki Klieman

Friday 2-2:45 pm

Walt Disney Room



Mariska Hargitay of *Law and Order: SVU* with Linda Fairstein (photo: Neilson Barnard)



Legendary prosecutor **Linda Fairstein** brings the real stories of the Manhattan Special Victims Unit to life. As the head of the Special Victims Unit for over three decades and the inspiration for the long-running *Law & Order* series, Fairstein has led the fight in and out of the courtroom to get justice for women and all victims of sexual violence. This special appearance gives us an inside look at how some of this world-famous unit's real cases were investigated and prosecuted. Her Alexandra Cooper novels are international and *New York Times* bestsellers and have been translated into more than a dozen languages. She is joined by **Rikki Klieman**, legal analyst for CBS News.

Maybe It's Me: On Being the Wrong Kind of Woman

Eileen Pollack with Patt Morrison

Friday 2-2:45 pm

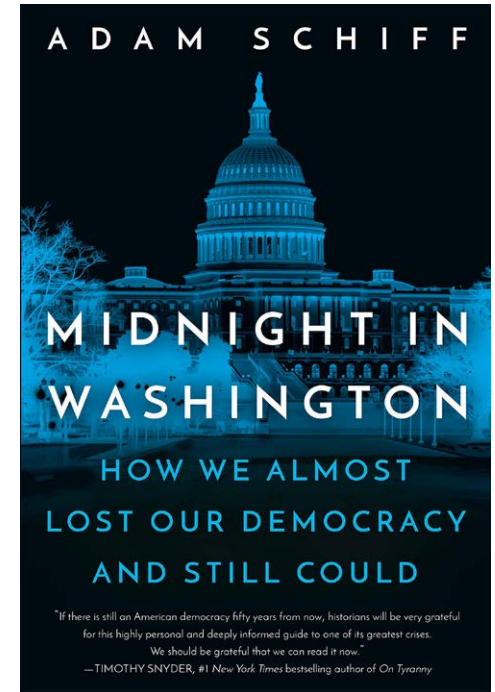
Joan Didion Room



Eileen Pollack has spent her life balancing on the knife's edge of being feminine and being feminist, of being smart and being suitable, of having friends and finding true love. Candid, bluntly honest and full-throttle funny, Pollack is a tour guide to her own life as she strives to meet all the mismatched expectations our culture of Stepford wife fantasies and third-wave feminism put in her way. Stay away if smart women scare you. *Los Angeles Times* columnist **Patt Morrison** is not afraid and speaks with Pollack about being the wrong kind of woman.



Photo: Andrew Harrer / Bloomberg via Getty Images



Congressman Adam Schiff in Conversation with Peter Baker and Susan Glasser

Congressman Adam Schiff with Peter Baker and Susan Glasser

Friday 3-3:45 pm

Jack London Room

Please join us for this special session with **Congressman Adam Schiff** in conversation with *The New York Times*' **Peter Baker** and *The New Yorker*'s **Susan Glasser**. This will be a wide-ranging conversation including the current events and chaos in Congress; January 6th and the investigation; and Donald Trump's presidency, legacy and future. Congressman Schiff is the author of *Midnight in Washington: How We Almost Lost Our Democracy and Still Could* and Peter Baker and Susan Glasser are the coauthors of *The Divider: Trump in The White House*.

The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

This session will be simulcast in

the new Outdoor Pavilion for Readers and the John Steinbeck Room

There will be a book signing immediately following this final session of the 2023 RMWF

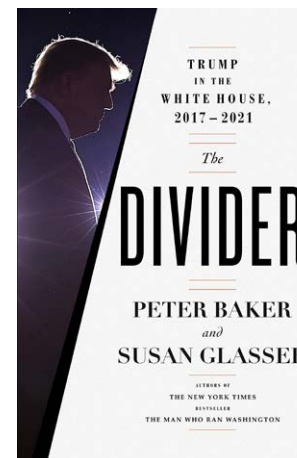
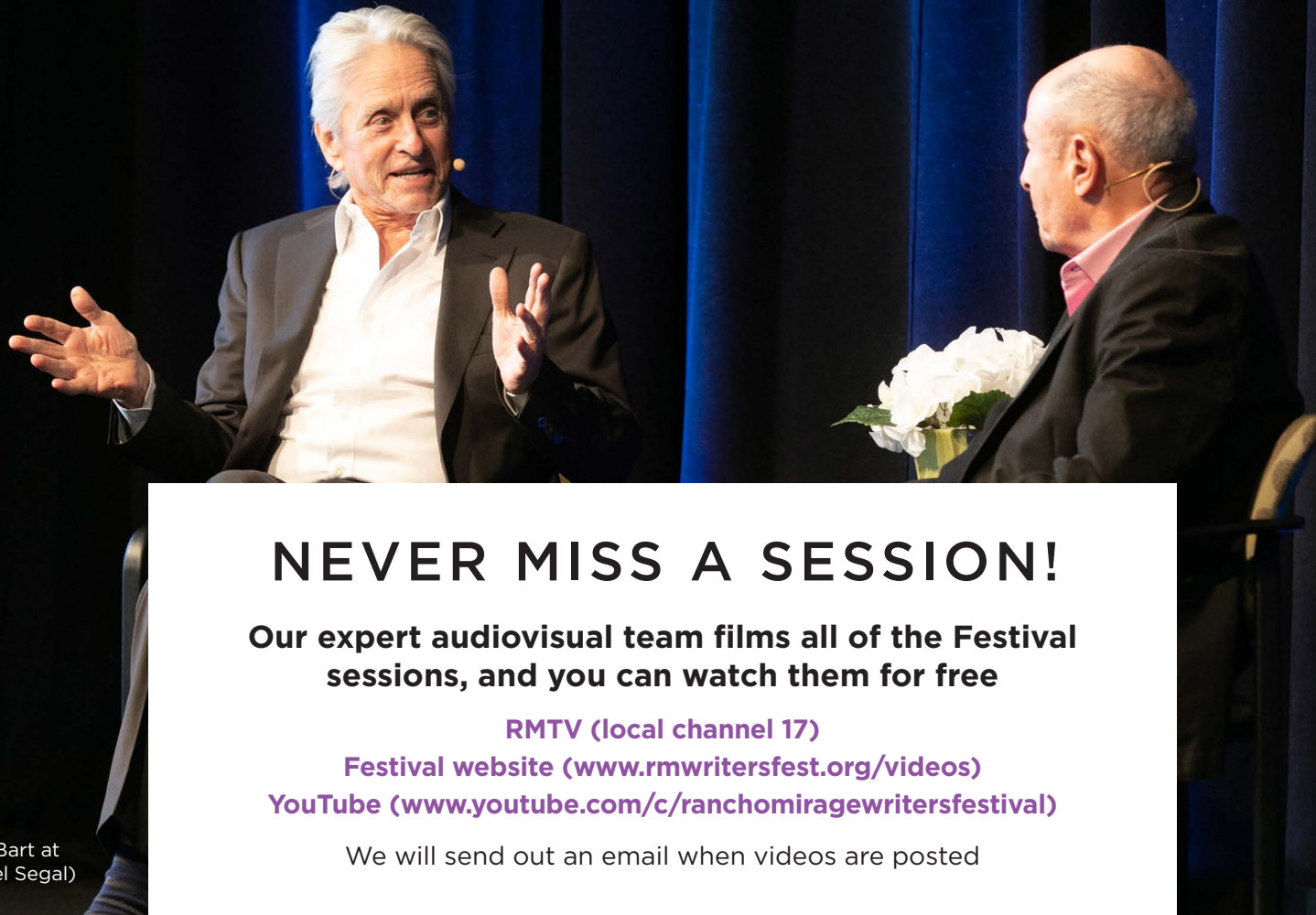


Photo:
Doug Mills



Michael Douglas and Peter Bart at RMWF 2020 (photo: Michael Segal)

NEVER MISS A SESSION!

Our expert audiovisual team films all of the Festival sessions, and you can watch them for free

RMTV (local channel 17)

Festival website (www.rmwritersfest.org/videos)

YouTube (www.youtube.com/c/ranchomiragewritersfestival)

We will send out an email when videos are posted



RMWF YouTube channel	Our YouTube channel in 2022	“Origins of Islam” by English historian Tom Holland	“Eat, Fast and Live Longer” by Dr. Valter Longo	“No Safe Spaces” by Adam Carolla and Dennis Prager
Over 2 million views	107,793 views	1,072,124 views	324,864 views	286,994 views



RMWF is very grateful for the generous support of the Auen Foundation, Sherrie and Ron Auen and Catharine Reed for underwriting the videotaping of all the Festival sessions. Thanks to their support, people from all over the world can enjoy all of the Festival sessions!

RMWF 2023 WRITERS



Teddy Abrams is the widely-acclaimed music director of the Louisville Orchestra and music director and conductor of the Britt Orchestra, as well as an established pianist, clarinetist and composer. A tireless advocate for the power of music, Abrams continues to foster interdisciplinary collaboration with organizations including the Louisville Ballet, the Center for Interfaith Relations, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the Speed Art Museum and the Folger Shakespeare Library.

Wednesday 9:30 am • Friday 9:30 am



Rick Atkinson is the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *An Army at Dawn* as well as *The Day of Battle*, *The Long Gray Line*, *In the Company of Soldiers* and *Crusade*. His many other awards include a Pulitzer Prize for journalism, the George Polk award and the Pritzker Military Library Literature Award. He was a former staff writer and senior editor at *The Washington Post*. *The British Are Coming* is the first volume of his new trilogy about the American Revolution.

Wednesday 11:30 am • Thursday 10:30 am



Peter Baker is the chief White House correspondent for *The New York Times* and a political analyst for MSNBC. He has covered four U.S. presidents: Donald Trump, Barack Obama, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton. He is the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *The Breach* about Bill Clinton's impeachment. He and his wife, Susan Glasser, have cowritten *Kremlin Rising* about Vladimir Putin's Russia and *The Man Who Ran Washington: The Life and Times of James A. Baker III*.

**Wednesday 11:30 am and 2 pm • Thursday 2 pm
Friday 3 pm**



Dave Barry is a humor columnist. For 25 years, he was a syndicated columnist whose work appeared in more than 500 newspapers in the United States and abroad. In 1988, he won the Pulitzer Prize for commentary. Barry has written more than 30 books, including the novels *Big Trouble*, *Lunatics*, *Tricky Business* and, most recently, *Insane City*. He has also written a number of books with titles like *I'll Mature When I'm Dead*, which are technically classified as nonfiction, although they contain numerous lies.

Thursday 2 pm • Friday 2 pm



Father Gregory Boyle is the founder of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, the largest gang-intervention, rehabilitation and re-entry program in the world. A native Angeleno and Jesuit priest, Father Boyle served as pastor of Dolores Mission Church in Boyle Heights from 1986 to 1992. In 1988 he started Homeboy Industries, which employs and trains former gang members in a range of social enterprises, as well as provides critical services to thousands of men and women. Father Boyle is the author of the 2010 *New York Times* bestseller *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*. His latest book is *Forgive Everyone Everything*.

Wednesday 8:30 am



H.W. Brands holds the Jack S. Blanton Sr. Chair in History at the University of Texas at Austin. He has authored over 30 books on U.S. history and his works have twice been selected as finalists for the Pulitzer Prize. His latest book is *The Last Campaign: Sherman, Geronimo and the War for America*.

Wednesday 3 pm • Thursday 1 pm



William Bratton is the only person to lead the police departments of America's two largest cities—Los Angeles and New York. His 46-year career in law enforcement is marked by transformative leadership and sharp reductions in crime. As "America's Top Cop," Bratton has translated crisis into opportunity at every stage of his esteemed career, demonstrating the power of optimistic leadership and a strategic, turnaround team management.

Thursday 9:30 am and 3 pm



Donna Brazile is a veteran political strategist, campaign manager, political analyst, author and ABC News contributor. She was the first African American woman to direct a major presidential campaign, acting as campaign manager for Al Gore in 2000. Brazile was also the former interim national chair of the Democratic National Committee as well as the former chair of the DNC's Voting Rights Institute. She is the author of the bestselling memoir *Cooking with Grease: Stirring the Pots in American Politics*. Her latest book is *For Colored Girls Who have Considered Politics*, the story of the four most powerful African American women in politics and how their friendship has changed politics in America.

Thursday 11:30 am and 3 pm



Douglas Brinkley is an award-winning historian and author. Brinkley is a professor of history at Rice University, the CNN presidential historian, a contributing editor at *Vanity Fair* and *Audubon* and a *New York Times* bestselling author. The *Chicago Tribune* has dubbed him “America’s new past master.” In addition, he is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Century Club.

**Wednesday 2 pm and 3 pm • Thursday 10:30 am
Friday 8:30 am, 11:30 am and 1 pm**



Jeffrey Brown is a senior correspondent and chief arts correspondent for the PBS *NewsHour*. In his 30-year career with the *NewsHour*, Brown has served as co-anchor, studio moderator and field reporter on a wide range of national and international issues, with work taking him around the country and to many parts of the globe. As arts correspondent he has profiled many of the world’s leading writers, musicians, actors and other artists. Brown is author of a collection of poetry titled *The News*.

Thursday 3 pm • Friday 1 pm



Frank Bruni has been a prominent journalist for more than three decades, including more than twenty-five years at *The New York Times*, the last ten of them as a nationally renowned op-ed columnist who appeared frequently as a television commentator. He was also a White House correspondent for the *Times*, its Rome bureau chief and, for five years, its chief restaurant critic. He is the author of four *New York Times* bestsellers, including his latest book *The Beauty of Dusk*. In July 2021, he became a professor at Duke University, teaching media-oriented classes in the Sanford School of Public Policy.

Wednesday 10:30 am • Thursday 3 pm



James Carville is a Democratic political consultant known as the “Ragin’ Cajun.” Carville has worked on numerous political campaigns, including for Bill Clinton and Ehud Barak, former Israeli prime minister. In 2009, Carville joined the faculty of Tulane University and teaches in the Political Science Department and is a regular contributor to *The Hill*, covering politics in opinion pieces for the publication. Carville and his wife, Mary Matalin, a conservative political strategist, co-wrote *All’s Fair: Love, War and Running for President*, a memoir recounting their political and personal lives on opposing ends of the political spectrum.

Thursday 9:30 am and 1 pm



Susan Choi’s first novel, *The Foreign Student*, won the Asian American Literary Award for fiction. Her second novel, *American Woman*, was a finalist for the 2004 Pulitzer Prize. Her third novel, *A Person of Interest*, was a finalist for the 2009 PEN/Faulkner Award. In 2010, she was named the inaugural recipient of the PEN/W.G. Sebald Award. Her fourth novel, *My Education*, received a 2014 Lammy Award. Her fifth novel, *Trust Exercise*, won the 2019 National Book Award for Fiction. A recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation, she teaches fiction writing at Yale.

Thursday 10:30 am and 2 pm



Joshua Cohen is the winner of the 2022 Pulitzer Prize for fiction for his novel *The Netanyahus*. The book also won the National Jewish Book Award for fiction. Called “a major American writer” by *The New York Times* and “an extraordinary prose stylist, surely one of the most prodigious at work in American fiction today” by *The New Yorker*, Cohen was awarded Israel’s 2013 Matanel Prize for Jewish Writers and in 2017 was named one of *Granta’s* Best Young American Novelists.

Wednesday 2 pm • Friday 11:30 am



Robert Costa is the chief election and campaign correspondent for CBS News, covering the 2020 and 2024 elections. He collaborates on special projects and investigations with *The Washington Post*, where he previously worked as a national political reporter. Costa is co-author with Bob Woodward of *Peril*, the number one bestselling book about the final days of the Trump presidency and early days of the Biden presidency. Costa previously served as the moderator and managing editor of *Washington Week* on PBS and as a political analyst for NBC News and MSNBC.

Wednesday 9:30 am • Thursday 9:30 am



Jonathan Darman is a journalist and historian who writes about American politics and the presidency. He is the author of *Landslide: LBJ and Ronald Reagan at the Dawn of a New America* and his latest book, *Becoming FDR: The Personal Crisis That Made a President*. As a former national political correspondent for *Newsweek*, Darman covered the presidential campaigns of Hillary Clinton, John Kerry and Mitt Romney and wrote extensively about other major figures in national politics and media. He covered the 2004 presidential campaign for the magazine’s special election project and has appeared frequently as a commentator on politics and presidential history on broadcast television, cable news and public radio.

Wednesday 2 pm • Friday 1 pm



Alan Dershowitz is a lawyer and scholar of United States constitutional law and criminal law. He began his teaching career at Harvard Law School where, in 1967, at the age of 28, he became the youngest full professor of law in its history. Dershowitz has been involved in several high-profile legal cases, and has represented a series of celebrity clients, including Mike Tyson, Patty Hearst, Jim Bakker, Claus von Bülow and O. J. Simpson, for whom he served on the legal “Dream Team” in the 1995 murder trial alongside Johnnie Cochran and F. Lee Bailey. Dershowitz is the author of several books about politics.

Thursday 11:30 am



Junot Díaz was born in the Dominican Republic and raised in New Jersey. He is the author of the critically acclaimed *Drown*; *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, which won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award; and *This Is How You Lose Her*, a *New York Times* bestseller and National Book Award finalist. He is the recipient of a MacArthur “Genius Grant” Fellowship, PEN/Malamud Award, Dayton Literary Peace Prize, Guggenheim Fellowship and PEN/O. Henry Award. A graduate of Rutgers College, Díaz is currently the fiction editor at *Boston Review* and the Rudge and Nancy Allen Professor of Writing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Wednesday 11:30 am • Friday 11:30 am



Anthony Doerr is the author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *All the Light We Cannot See*. He is also the author of two story collections, *Memory Wall* and *The Shell Collector*, the novel *About Grace* and the memoir *Four Seasons in Rome*. He has won five O. Henry Prizes, the Rome Prize, the New York Public Library’s Young Lions Award, the National Magazine Award for fiction, a Guggenheim Fellowship and the Story Prize. His latest novel is *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, which was a finalist for the 2021 National Book Award.

Wednesday 10:30 am • Friday 9:30 am



Maureen Dowd, winner of the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for distinguished commentary, became a columnist on *The New York Times* op-ed page in 1995 after having served as a correspondent in the paper’s Washington bureau since 1986. She has covered four presidential campaigns and served as White House correspondent. She also wrote a column “On Washington” for *The New York Times Magazine*.

**Thursday 11:30 am and 3 pm
Friday 10:30 am and 2 pm**



David Duchovny is an actor, writer, producer, director, novelist and singer-songwriter. He is known for playing FBI agent Fox Mulder on the television series *The X-Files* and writer Hank Moody on the television series *Californication*, both of which have earned him Golden Globe Awards and four Emmy Award nominations. He is a prolific author whose fourth novel, *Truly Like Lightning*, was published in February 2021. His previous novels include *Holy Cow*, *Bucky F*cking Dent* and *Miss Subways*. As a musician, Duchovny has released three studio albums, *Hell or Highwater*, *Every Third Thought* and *Gestureland*. His most recent novella is *The Reservoir*.

Friday 2 pm



Susan Eisenhower is a consultant, author and expert on international security, space policy, energy and relations between the Russian Federation and the U.S. She is the granddaughter of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. A lifelong Republican, she made headlines in 2008 by famously endorsing Barack Obama for president and leaving the Republican Party to become an Independent.

Friday 8:30 am



Bernardine Evaristo is the author of the 2019 Booker Prize-winning novel *Girl, Woman, Other*. Her numerous other works span the genres of fiction, verse fiction, short fiction, poetry, essays, literary criticism and radio and theatre drama. Her writing is celebrated for its experimentation, daring, subversion and challenging the myths of Afro-diasporic identities and histories. A staunch and longstanding activist and advocate for the inclusion of artists and writers of color, Evaristo has initiated several successful strategies to ensure increased representation in the creative industries. She is professor of creative writing at Brunel University London.

Wednesday 1 pm • Thursday 10:30 am



Linda Fairstein, America’s foremost legal expert on crimes of sexual assault and domestic violence, led the Sex Crimes Unit of the District Attorney’s Office in Manhattan for twenty-five years. A Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, she is a graduate of Vassar College and the University of Virginia School of Law. Her first novel, *Final Jeopardy*, introduced the critically acclaimed character of Alexandra Cooper, a Manhattan Assistant District Attorney for the Sex Crimes Unit. *Blood Oath* is Fairstein’s twentieth novel in the series.

Thursday 3 pm • Friday 2 pm



John A. Farrell is the author of *Richard Nixon: The Life*, a biography of the 37th president of the United States. His previous books are *Clarence Darrow: Attorney for the Damned* and *Tip O'Neill and the Democratic Century*. Farrell is a journalist and author. He is a contributing editor to *Politico Magazine*, after a prize-winning career as a newspaperman, most notably at *The Denver Post* and *The Boston Globe*, where he worked as White House correspondent. His latest book is *Ted Kennedy: A Life*, the first single-volume life of the great figure since his death in 2009.

Thursday 11:30 am



Shane Feldman is serial entrepreneur, community researcher and storyteller. As founder and CEO of Count Me In, he is the visionary behind the world's largest youth-run organization that has impacted over ten million youth in over 100 countries. Over the past decade, Count Me In has initiated tens of thousands of projects worldwide, contributing a value of over \$2.6 billion to the global economy through service.

Friday 8:30 am



Jonathan Safran Foer is best known for his novels *Everything Is Illuminated*, *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* and *Here I Am* and for his nonfiction works *Eating Animals* and *We Are the Weather: Saving the Planet Begins at Breakfast*. He teaches creative writing at New York University.

Thursday 8:30 am and 10:30 am



Diana Gabaldon is the author of the award-winning, number one *New York Times* bestselling *Outlander* novels, described by *Salon* magazine as “the smartest historical sci-fi adventure-romance story ever written by a science Ph.D. with a background in scripting ‘Scrooge Mc Duck’ comics.” Her books are published in thirty-eight languages and sold in one hundred and fourteen countries.

Wednesday 10:30 am and 1 pm



Susan Glasser is a staff writer at *The New Yorker*. Glasser has served as the top editor of several Washington publications; most recently, she founded the award-winning *Politico Magazine* and went on to become the editor of *Politico* throughout the 2016 election cycle. She previously served as the editor-in-chief of *Foreign Policy*, which won three National Magazine Awards, among other honors, during her tenure. Before that, she worked for a decade at *The Washington Post*, where she was the editor of outlook and national news. She is the co-author of *Kremlin Rising* about Vladimir Putin's Russia and *The Man Who Ran Washington: The Life and Times of James A. Baker III*.

Wednesday 9:30 am, 11:30 am and 2 pm
Thursday 2 pm • Friday 3 pm



Eddie S. Glaude Jr. is the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor and chair of the Department of African American Studies at Princeton University. He is an intellectual who speaks to the complex dynamics of the American experience. His most well-known books, *Democracy in Black: How Race Still Enslaves the American Soul* and *In a Shade of Blue: Pragmatism and the Politics of Black America*, take a wide look at black communities, the difficulties of race in the United States and the challenges our democracy faces. His most recent book is *Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own*.

Wednesday 11:30 am and 2 pm • Thursday 3 pm



Doris Kearns Goodwin is a world-renowned presidential historian, public speaker and Pulitzer Prize-winning, *New York Times* number one bestselling author. Her seventh book, *Leadership in Turbulent Times*, was published in September 2018 to critical acclaim and became an instant *New York Times* bestseller. A culmination of Goodwin's five-decade career of studying the American presidents, focusing on Presidents Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt and Lyndon Baines Johnson, the book provides an accessible and essential road map for aspiring and established leaders in every field and all of us in our everyday lives.

Wednesday 2 pm • Thursday 8:30 am



Nigel Hamilton is a bestselling and award-winning biographer, academic and broadcaster. He is best known for his biographies of President John F. Kennedy, General Bernard “Monty” Montgomery and President Bill Clinton. He founded the British Institute of Biography and became the first professor of biography in the U.K. at De Montfort University. He is currently senior fellow at the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies at the University of Massachusetts. His latest book is *War and Peace: FDR's Final Odyssey: D-Day to Yalta, 1943–1945*, which is the final installment of his FDR at War trilogy.

Thursday 10:30 am and 2 pm



Congressman Joseph Kennedy III is the managing director at Citizens Energy, a diversified renewable energy non-profit that helps low income families meet their basic needs. He is also the founder of Groundwork Project, a political advocacy organization dedicated to supporting local community organizing efforts in regions of the country historically under-resourced and disenfranchised. Kennedy served as the U.S. Representative for Massachusetts 4th congressional district from 2013–2021, where he focused on civil rights and economic justice.

Wednesday 11:30 am
Thursday 8:30 am and 11:30 am



Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis was sworn in as the 50th Lieutenant Governor of California by Governor Gavin Newsom on January 7th, 2019. She is the first woman elected Lt. Governor of California. From 2010 to 2013, Kounalakis served as President Barack Obama’s Ambassador to the Republic of Hungary. Kounalakis was the first Greek-American woman—and at age 43 one of America’s youngest—to serve as U.S. ambassador. Her highly acclaimed memoir, *Madam Ambassador, Three Years of Diplomacy, Dinner Parties and Democracy in Budapest* (The New Press, 2015), chronicles the onset of Hungary’s democratic backsliding. Kounalakis graduated from Dartmouth College in 1989 and earned her masters in business administration from U.C. Berkeley’s Haas School of Business in 1992.

Wednesday 8:30 am and 9:30 am



Fran Lebowitz is an author, public speaker and occasional actor. She is known for her sardonic social commentary on American life as filtered through her New York City sensibilities. *The New York Times* has called her a modern-day Dorothy Parker. Lebowitz was once named one of the year’s most stylish women by *Vanity Fair*. She remains a style icon. Lebowitz lives in New York City, as she does not believe that she would be allowed to live anywhere else. She is the subject and star of the 2020 Netflix limited documentary series, *Pretend It’s a City*, directed by her good friend Martin Scorsese.

Friday 1 pm



Amanda Little is a professor of journalism and science writing at Vanderbilt University. She is the author of *The Fate of Food: What We’ll Eat in a Bigger, Hotter, Smarter World*, a five-year adventure into the lands, minds and machines shaping the future of sustainable food. Little’s first book was *Power Trip: The Story of America’s Love Affair with Energy*. She has a particular fondness for far-flung and hard-to-stomach reporting that takes her to ultra deep oil rigs, down manholes, into sewage plants and inside monsoon clouds. Little has written about energy, technology and the environment for *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Bloomberg*, *Wired* and *Rolling Stone*.

Friday 9:30 am and 11:30 am



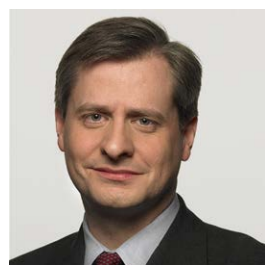
Ben Mankiewicz is a journalist, film critic and television personality best known as a host on Turner Classic Movies. A descendant of a prestigious Hollywood family, he started his career as a producer at WJLA, the ABC affiliate in Washington, D.C. He got his big break in 2003 when he was selected as the second host for Turner Classic Movies, along with the network’s prime host Robert Osborne. He was a presenter on the television series *At the Movies* from 2008 to 2009. He also acted as a cohost and commentator on the shows *The Young Turks* and *What the Flick?!* on the TYT Network.

Wednesday 10:30 am • Friday 9:30 am and 11:30 am



Admiral William H. McRaven is a retired U.S. Navy four-star admiral and the former chancellor of the University of Texas System. During his time in the military, he commanded special operations forces at every level, eventually taking charge of the U.S. Special Operations Command. McRaven is the author of three books including *SPEC OPS: Case Studies in Special Operations Warfare*; *Make Your Bed: Little Things That Can Change Your Life and Maybe the World*, based on his 2014 University of Texas Commencement speech; and *Sea Stories: My Life in Special Operations*, a memoir from McRaven’s life in the special operations world.

Tuesday 7 pm



Jon Meacham is a renowned presidential historian, contributing writer to *The New York Times Book Review*, contributing editor at *TIME* and Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House*. Meacham’s book *Destiny and Power: The American Odyssey of George Herbert Walker Bush* was a number one *New York Times* bestseller. He is also a regular guest on *Morning Joe* and other broadcasts. He holds the Carolyn T. and Robert M. Rogers Chair in American Presidency at Vanderbilt University and is also a distinguished visiting professor in the Department of Political Science at Vanderbilt University.

Wednesday 8:30 am and 2 pm • Thursday 10:30 am



Tim Miller is *The Bulwark’s* writer-at-large, an MSNBC political analyst and host of *Not My Party* on Snapchat. He was previously political director for Republican Voters Against Trump, communications director for Jeb Bush’s 2016 presidential campaign and spokesman for the Republican National Committee. He has been described by *Politico* as one of the “most digitally fluent and social-media savvy” GOP operatives. He was a contributor to the liberal Crooked Media website and frequently appeared on the *Pod Save America* podcast. He is the author of *Why We Did It: A Travelogue from the Republican Road to Hell*, his forensic study of the current Republican Party that addresses the question, “why did normal people go along with the worst of Trumpism?”

Wednesday 3 pm • Thursday 2 pm • Friday 11:30 am



Jennifer Morris is the chief executive officer of The Nature Conservancy. For the past 25 years, Morris has dedicated her life to protecting the environment for people and nature. Morris started her storied career in conservation working with communities in rural Namibia, before going on to eventually helm some of the leading international conservation NGOs. She brings decades of global leadership, proven management skills and a passion for conservation to the organization and its ambitious mission—conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends.

Friday 11:30 am and 1 pm



Eileen Pollack grew up in Liberty, New York, the heart of the Jewish Catskills. After graduating from Yale with a BS in physics, she earned an MFA in creative writing from the Iowa Writers' Workshop. She is the author of the novels *The Professor of Immortality*, *The Bible of Dirty Jokes*, *A Perfect Life*, and *Breaking and Entering*. Pollack's work of creative nonfiction, *Woman Walking Ahead: In Search of Catherine Weldon and Sitting Bull*, was recently made into a movie starring Jessica Chastain. Her work has been selected for Best American Short Stories, Best American Essays and Best American Travel Writing.

Friday 2 pm



Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee is the author of *The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer*, winner of the 2011 Pulitzer Prize, *The Laws of Medicine* and *The Gene: An Intimate History*. *The Song of the Cell: An Exploration of Medicine and the New Human* is his latest book, the third book in his exploration of what it means to be human. Dr. Mukherjee is an assistant professor of medicine at Columbia University and a cancer physician and researcher. A Rhodes scholar, he graduated from Stanford University, University of Oxford and Harvard Medical School. He has published articles in *Nature*, *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *The New York Times* and *Cell*.

Thursday 10:30 am • Friday 10:30 am



Julia Quinn is the bestselling author of the wildly popular *Bridgerton* books, now a Netflix original series produced by Shondaland Media. In March 2021, all eight *Bridgerton* novels were on the *New York Times* bestsellers list at the same time, a record for an adult fiction author. She is a graduate of Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges and briefly attended Yale School of Medicine before deciding to pursue a full-time writing career. Her latest book in the series is *On the Way to the Wedding: Gregory's Story*.

Wednesday 1 pm and 3 pm



Tommy Orange is a novelist and writer from Oakland, California. His novel *There There* was one of the finalists for the 2019 Pulitzer Prize. Orange was also the recipient of a 2019 American Book Award. He is a 2014 MacDowell Fellow and a 2016 Writing by Writers Fellow, as well as a graduate from the MFA program at the Institute of American Indian Arts. Orange is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma.

Thursday 11:30 am • Friday 11:30 am



Dr. Azra Raza is the Chan Soon-Shiong Professor of Medicine and director of the MDS Center at Columbia University in New York. She is considered an international authority on pre-leukemia (MDS) and acute leukemia. Dr. Raza started collecting blood and marrow samples on her patients in 1984, and now her tissue bank, the largest and oldest in the country with over 60,000 samples, is considered a unique national treasure. She is the author of *The First Cell: And the Human Costs of Pursuing Cancer to the Last*.

Wednesday 1 pm • Friday 10:30 am



Pamela Paul is an opinion columnist for *The New York Times* and was previously the editor of *The New York Times Book Review* for nine years, where she oversaw book coverage and hosted the book review podcast. She is the author of eight books: *100 Things We've Lost to the Internet*, *My Life With Bob*, *How to Raise a Reader*, *By the Book*, *Parenting, Inc.*, *Pornified*, *The Starter Marriage and the Future of Matrimony* and *Rectangle Time*, a book for children.

Wednesday 11:30 am and 2 pm
Thursday 10:30 am and 1 pm



Ruth Reichl is the author of *My Kitchen Year: 136 Recipes That Saved My Life*. Her latest book, *Save Me the Plums*, chronicles her groundbreaking tenure as editor in chief of *Gourmet* magazine from 1999 to 2009. Before that she was the restaurant critic of both *The New York Times* and the *Los Angeles Times*, where she was also named food editor. She served as restaurant critic for *New West* and *California* magazines. Reichl has been honored with six James Beard Awards.

Wednesday 9:30 am • Friday 9:30 am



Ben Rhodes is the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *The World As It Is*; a contributor for NBC News, MSNBC and Crooked Media; the co-chair of National Security Action; and an advisor to former President Barack Obama. From 2009–2017, Rhodes served as a Deputy National Security Advisor to President Obama. In that capacity, he participated in nearly all of President Obama’s key decisions and oversaw the president’s national security communications, speechwriting, public diplomacy and global engagement programming. Prior to joining the administration, he was a senior speechwriter and foreign policy advisor to the Obama campaign.

Wednesday 9:30 am and 3 pm



Karl Rove, an iconic political strategist and one of the most sought-after political brains of our time, is best known for his provocative and robust knowledge of the major political issues of the day. Rove served as senior advisor to President George W. Bush from 2000–2007 and deputy chief of staff from 2004–2007. At the White House, he oversaw the offices of Strategic Initiatives, Political Affairs, Public Liaison and Intergovernmental Affairs and was deputy chief of staff for policy, coordinating the White House policy-making process. Today Rove writes a weekly op-ed for *The Wall Street Journal*, is a FOX News contributor and is the author of *The Triumph of William McKinley: Why the Election of 1896 Still Matters* and the *New York Times* bestseller *Courage and Consequence*.

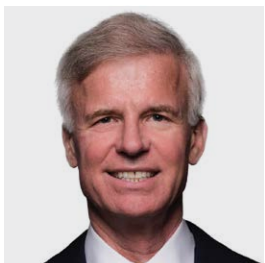
Wednesday 9:30 am, 1 pm and 3 pm

Thursday 9:30 am, 1 pm and 2 pm



Philip Rucker is a Pulitzer prize-winning journalist and deputy national editor for *The Washington Post*. He previously has covered Congress, the Obama White House and the 2012 and 2016 presidential campaigns. Rucker also is the coauthor of *A Very Stable Genius: Donald J. Trump’s Testing of America*, a number one *New York Times* bestseller, and is a political analyst for NBC News and MSNBC. His latest book is *I Alone Can Fix It: Donald J. Trump’s Catastrophic Final Year* with coauthor Carol Leonnig.

Thursday 9:30 am and 1 pm



Frederick J. Ryan, Jr. is the publisher and chief executive officer of *The Washington Post*. He was the president and chief operating officer of Allbritton Communications Company and founding chief executive officer and president of *Politico*. He was the chief of staff for former President Ronald Reagan from 1989 to 1995 and is chairman of the board of trustees of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation. Ryan is a member of the board of the White House Historical Association, chairman of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Foundation and co-chair of the National Archives Advisory Committee on Presidential Libraries. He is the author of *Wine and the White House: A History*.

Wednesday 2 pm



Congressman Adam Schiff is currently serving as the U.S. Representative for California’s 28th congressional district. Congressman Schiff is the ranking member and chair of the House Intelligence Committee. He was one of the lead investigators in the impeachment inquiry against Donald Trump, stemming from the Trump-Ukraine scandal, and the lead impeachment manager in the first impeachment trial before the U.S. Senate. He is also a member of the House Select Committee on the January 6 Attack. Schiff is the author of the bestselling book *Midnight in Washington: How We Almost Lost Our Democracy and Still Could*.

Friday 3 pm



Omid Scobie is a London-based journalist, *Harper’s Bazaar* editor-at-large and *Yahoo! News* executive editor. His *New York Times* bestselling biography on the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, *Finding Freedom*, remains the fastest selling royal book in two decades.* Today, he remains an authoritative voice on the British royal family and is a longtime royal contributor for *Good Morning America* and ABC News. His next book, focusing on a new chapter of the royal story, is set for global release via Dey Street Books/HarperCollins in 2023.

*Per Nielson Bookscan

Friday 10:30 am



Sally Bedell Smith is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Elizabeth the Queen* and *Prince Charles*, as well as biographies of William S. Paley; Pamela Harriman; Diana, Princess of Wales; John and Jacqueline Kennedy; and Bill and Hillary Clinton. An on-air contributor for CNN since 2017, she was a contributing editor at *Vanity Fair* from 1996 to 2018. She previously worked at *TIME* and *The New York Times*, where she was a cultural news reporter.

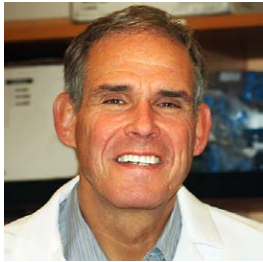
Thursday 9:30 am and 10:30 am



Bret Stephens is an op-ed columnist for *The New York Times*, focusing on foreign and domestic policy. Previously, Stephens had a long career at *The Wall Street Journal*, where he was deputy editorial page editor and foreign affairs columnist. He has reported from around the world and interviewed scores of world leaders. He is the author of *America in Retreat: The New Isolationism and the Coming Global Disorder*. He is the recipient of numerous awards and distinctions, including two honorary doctorates and the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for commentary.

Wednesday 9:30 am, 10:30 am and 1 pm

Thursday 9:30 am • Friday 8:30 am



Dr. Eric Topol is the founder and director of the Scripps Research Translational Institute, a professor of molecular medicine and executive vice-president of Scripps Research. As a researcher, he has published over 1,200 peer-reviewed articles with more than 250,000 citations, was elected to the National Academy of Medicine and is one of the top ten most cited researchers in medicine. His principal scientific focus has been on the genomic and digital tools to individualize medicine. He is the author of three bestselling books on the future of medicine—*The Creative Destruction of Medicine*, *The Patient Will See You Now* and his latest, *Deep Medicine: How Artificial Intelligence Can Make Healthcare Human Again*.

Friday 10:30 am and 1 pm



Bonnie Tsui is a longtime contributor to *The New York Times* and *Pop-Up Magazine*. She has been the recipient of the Jane Rainie Opel Young Alumna Award from Harvard University, the Lowell Thomas gold award and a National Press Foundation Fellowship. She is the author of *American Chinatown: A People's History of Five Neighborhoods* and *Why We Swim*, an immersive and eye-opening perspective on swimming and human behavior.

Wednesday 8:30 am



Karen Tumulty is a deputy editorial page editor for *The Washington Post*. She joined the *Post* in 2010 from *TIME Magazine*, where she had held the same title. During her 15 years at *TIME*, Tumulty wrote or cowrote more than three dozen cover stories. She also held positions with *TIME* as congressional correspondent and White House correspondent. Before joining *TIME* in 1994, Tumulty spent 14 years at the *Los Angeles Times*. Her latest book is *The Triumph of Nancy Reagan*.

Thursday 8:30 am • Thursday 1 pm and 3 pm



Judy Woodruff is one of the world's most renowned journalists and the former anchor and managing editor of the PBS *NewsHour*. Woodruff will host a new PBS series *Judy Woodruff Presents: America at a Crossroads* starting in 2023. This two-year project will focus on the polarization in American politics and whether it can be healed. She has covered politics and other news for five decades at NBC, CNN and PBS. Woodruff brings decades of broadcast experience and coverage of eight presidential elections to the table as one of America's most accomplished political journalists. She is the recent recipient of the Peabody Journalistic Integrity Award and an Emmy Lifetime Achievement Award, as well as the Radcliffe Medal, the Poynter Medal for Lifetime Achievement in Journalism, the Gwen Ifill Press Freedom Award from the Committee to Protect Journalists and the Cronkite Award for Excellence in Journalism among many others.

Thursday 10:30 am and 11:30 am



Lawrence Wright is an author, screenwriter, playwright and staff writer for *The New Yorker* magazine. He is the author of eleven nonfiction books. His book about the rise of al-Qaeda, *The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11*, was published to immediate and widespread acclaim and won numerous awards, including the Pulitzer Prize. Wright is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Society of American Historians and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He also serves as the keyboard player in the Austin-based blues band, WhoDo. His latest book is *The Plague Year: America in the Time of Covid*.

Wednesday 11:30 am and 3 pm

BOOK SIGNING AND STORE

Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory

Hours: 7:30 am–4:00 pm, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

You may purchase books, have them signed and then leave them at the pop-up store for later pick up. We also ship books all around the world.

Payment may be made by credit card, check or cash

RMWF 2023 MODERATORS AND SPECIAL GUESTS



Peter Bart started his career as a newsman with *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*, then spent seventeen years as a film executive (vice president of Paramount, senior vice president of MGM, president of Lorimar Film Co.) only to return to journalism as editor-in-chief of *Variety*. Along the way, he was responsible for eight books, including *Shoot-Out*, written with Peter Guber, *Dangerous Company* and two nonfiction books, *The Gross* and *Fade Out*.

Friday 11:30 am



Hon. Barbara Boxer is a former U.S. Senator from California from 1993 to 2017. A member of the Democratic Party, she previously served as the U.S. Representative for California's 6th congressional district from 1983 until 1993. She is currently cochair of Mercury Public Affairs's Los Angeles office. She has been a forceful advocate for families, children, consumers, the environment and her home state of California during her 24 years in the Senate, ten years in the House and six years on the Marin County Board of Supervisors. Boxer is the author of five books including *The Art of Tough: Fearlessly Facing Politics and Life*.

Thursday 9:30 am



Douglas Brunt was president and CEO of Authentium, Inc., an internet security company. He now writes full time and has published three *New York Times* bestselling novels: *Ghosts of Manhattan*, *The Means* and *Trophy Son*. A Philadelphia native, he lives in New York City with his wife, Megyn Kelly, and their three children.

Thursday 9:30 am and 3 pm



Corinna da Fonseca-Wollheim is a music critic and cultural entrepreneur who is dedicated to deepening the art of listening. As a contributing classical music critic for *The New York Times* she writes reviews, features and essays that unlock the communicative power of music. In 2019 she founded Beginner's Ear, a production company that curates enlightening listening experiences centered on meditation and live music. Since then, she has brought immersive music meditations to diverse audiences and spaces, including a yoga loft, a sunken garden, a federal detention center, a dance studio, an independent high school as well as traditional music venues.

Wednesday 9:30 am

Friday 9:30 am and 10:30 am



Hal Gershowitz is a novelist and public affairs essayist. He is a graduate of the University of Maryland and was awarded a doctorate in Humane Letters by the Catholic Theological Union of North America. His novel, *Cry Eden*, is the highly anticipated ending to his award-winning Eden Trilogy.

Wednesday 10:30 am



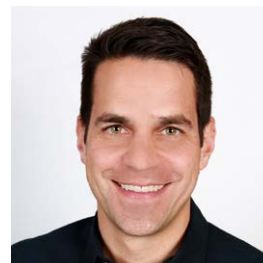
Mara Gladstone has worked in the arts as a curator, producer, fundraiser and writer for two decades. She is currently Deputy Director at Desert X, and has curated exhibitions and programs at the Palm Springs Art Museum and J. Paul Getty Museum, among others. Gladstone serves on the boards of the Project X Foundation for Art and Criticism and Bayanihan Desert. She received a doctorate from the University of Rochester and a bachelor's degree from Brown.

Thursday 10:30 am and 2 pm



Dr. Carla Hayden was sworn in as the 14th Librarian of Congress on September 14, 2016. Dr. Hayden is the first woman and the first African American to lead the national library. She was nominated by President Barack Obama on February 24, 2016, and approved by the Senate in July 2016. As the Librarian of Congress, Hayden manages a vast national collection of some 160 million books, recordings, photographs, newspapers, maps and manuscripts. The Library of Congress is the main research arm of the U.S. Congress and the home of the U.S. Copyright Office.

Wednesday 10:30 am • Thursday 1 pm



Dave Karger is a host on Turner Classic Movies (TCM). An award-winning host, interviewer and entertainment expert, he began guest hosting on TCM in 2016 and was named an official host in 2018. He has made more than 200 live appearances on NBC's *TODAY* show and also serves as a special correspondent for IMDb. In 2018 he co-hosted ABC's *Live from the Red Carpet* on Oscar night. From 2012 to 2016, Karger served as chief correspondent at Fandango, creating and hosting the original video series *The Frontrunners*, and before that, Karger spent 17 years as a senior writer at *Entertainment Weekly*.

Wednesday 10:30 am and 1 pm • Friday 9:30 am



Rikki Klieman is a criminal defense lawyer and television personality. A native of Chicago, she is a legal analyst for CBS News, having previously worked in criminal defense in Boston and taught at Columbia Law School. Additionally, she is an author and actress and is married to William Bratton, former leader of the Los Angeles Police Department and New York City Police Department. Her autobiography, *Fairy Tales Can Come True: How a Driven Woman Changed Her Destiny*, was a *Los Angeles Times* bestseller.

Thursday 11:30 am and 3 pm • Friday 2 pm



Shawn McCreesh is a features writer for *New York* magazine covering media, politics and power. He was the former editorial assistant to *New York Times*' Maureen Dowd. Previously, McCreesh was also an editorial assistant at *Men's Journal* magazine at Wenner Media and was an editorial intern at *Rolling Stone* magazine. He has also interned at *AM NewYork*.

Friday 10:30 am



Dr. Markos Kounalakis is an award-winning, nationally-syndicated foreign affairs columnist, author and scholar. Wars and revolutions are where Dr. Kounalakis cut his teeth as a foreign correspondent. He has authored numerous books, including his latest, *Spin Wars and Spy Games: Global Media and Intelligence Gathering*. A political scientist, Dr. Kounalakis is currently a Visiting Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. In 2017, President Barack Obama appointed Dr. Kounalakis to the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board in the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

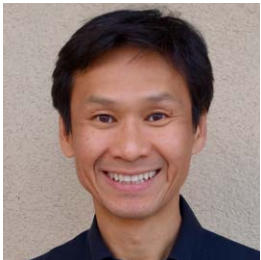
Wednesday 9:30 am



Justice Douglas Miller was born in Whittier, California. He received a degree in economics from BYU and his law degree from Pepperdine. After practicing law for 17 years, he was appointed to the Riverside Superior Court in 1995, where he served as a judge until 2006. He was then nominated by Governor Schwarzenegger to the Fourth District Court of Appeals where he continues to serve. Justice Miller has been on many state and local committees and is currently the vice chair of the Supreme Court Committee of Judicial Ethics Opinions and was chair of the Executive and Planning Committee on the Judicial Council from 2010 through 2019.

Wednesday 8:30 am • Thursday 3 pm

Friday 8:30 am and 1 pm



A Festival moderator since 2018, **Dr. Khoi Le**, who was born and raised in Vietnam, came to the United States at the age of 14. After graduating with honors from Harvard College and Harvard Medical School, he trained in his specialty at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston and now serves as one of 17 cardiologists at the renowned Eisenhower Desert Cardiology Center. In addition to teaching and lecturing, Dr. Le has performed medical mission work throughout Asia and South America and in 1997 performed the first stent procedure in his homeland, Vietnam.

Wednesday 11:30 am, 1 pm and 2 pm

Friday 10:30 am, 11:30 am and 1 pm

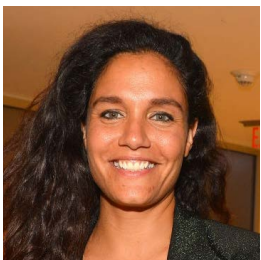


Patt Morrison is a writer for the *Los Angeles Times* and has received two Pulitzer Prizes, six Emmy Awards and eleven Golden Mike Awards for her work as a radio and television host. In her honor, Pink's, the legendary Hollywood hotdog stand, named its vegetarian hot dog after Patt.

Wednesday 8:30 am

Thursday 8:30 am and 9:30 am

Friday 10:30 am and 2 pm



Zoe Lukov is an independent curator and filmmaker. She was the former director of exhibitions at Faena Art in Miami. Previously, she worked for the International Liaison for the Bial International de Arte Contemporáneo de Cartagena de Indias, she was a project manager at Jeffrey Deitch, Inc. and she was curatorial coordinator at the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art (LA MoCA). She completed a 2010 Fulbright fellowship in Colombia, and she currently serves on the board of Desert X.

Thursday 8:30 am and 11:30 am



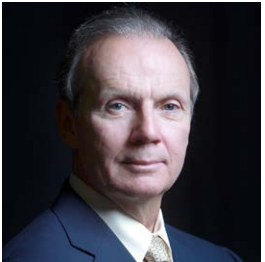
Mike Murphy is the co-director of the Center for the Political Future at USC. Murphy is one of the Republican Party's most successful political media consultants, having handled strategy and advertising for more than 26 successful gubernatorial and senatorial campaigns. His record in helping Republicans win Democratic states is unmatched by any other GOP consultant. He is a widely known political pundit, appearing frequently on NBC, MSNBC, CNN and NPR. He cohosts a political podcast called *Hacks on Tap*.

Wednesday 11:30 am • Thursday 2 pm



Marylouise "Oatsie" Oates is a journalist who is the former society columnist for the *Los Angeles Times* and the author of *Making Peace*. She is married to Democratic political consultant, commentator and author Robert Shrum.

Wednesday 8:30 am and 9:30 am



Dr. Joseph Scherger, MD, is the former vice president for primary care at Eisenhower Health. Dr. Scherger is also a clinical professor of family medicine at the Keck School of Medicine at USC. His main focuses are nutrition and wellness and the redesign of office practice using the tools of information technology and quality improvement. Dr. Scherger is a proponent of functional medicine, a focus on treating the causes of disease rather than just treating disease with drugs and procedures. He has written a book on healthy living, *Lean and Fit*.

Friday 9:30 am



Robert Shrum is a political consultant and was senior advisor to the 2004 Kerry-Edwards campaign, the 2000 Gore presidential campaign, the campaign of Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel and to the British Labour Party in the 2001 parliamentary campaign. Since 1985, Shrum has been a strategist and advertising consultant for 45 winning campaigns for senate, governor and mayor. *The Atlantic Monthly* described him as "the most sought-after consultant in the Democratic Party."

Thursday 8:30 am, 9:30 am and 11:30 am

Friday 11:30 am



Elizabeth Kabler Sorensen is a Trustee of the Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands. She is an art adviser and curator. She is founder of Skylight Projects, an alternative art space in New York City that featured younger emerging artists, and she has written for catalogs and magazines. Sorensen is secretary of the board of Desert X, an art biennial in Palm Springs, California, and sits on the boards of Creative Time in New York and the Serpentine Gallery and Artangel in London.

Wednesday 1 pm



Johan Sorensen is the founder of Portobello Behavioral Health which provides private care management/social care management within the behavioral health space. Previously he was a clinical director of centers in the U.K. and Middle East as well as cofounder of Lifeworks in Surrey, which is one of the most recognized addiction treatment facilities in Europe, and also Urban Recovery in Brooklyn, New York. He is one of the cofounders of Music Support in the U.K. which helps people in the music industry access help for mental and behavioral health issues.

Friday 8:30 am

TIPS TO HELP YOU ENJOY THE FESTIVAL

- **Admission to all events is with a personalized all-access badge. Please wear it at all times.** Your badge gives you access to the library during the Festival as well as lunch. Replacement badges will not be issued.
- Doors to the **Library will open at 7:30 am** each morning. **Complimentary coffee and pastries will be available on the patio**, sponsored by Desert Allergy, Diane and Dr. David Waldman.
- **Author sessions last approximately 45 minutes.** Some authors will leave time for questions and answers. During the Q & A, please speak clearly and limit your interactions to a single question.
- **Seating is available at each venue on a first come, first served basis.** If a room at the library is filled to capacity, we suggest that you enjoy an author in another room. Purchase of a Festival pass does not guarantee admission to any individual presentation.
- Our **hearing loop technology** lets you enjoy crystal-clear sound wirelessly transferred to your hearing aid, cochlear implant or smartphone. Simply switch your hearing aid or cochlear implant to the “T,” telecoil or hearing loop program. The hearing loops were made possible with support from The Bartush Family Foundation.
- **Please greet our writers**, introduce yourself, and give them a warm Rancho Mirage welcome.
- **Please silence all cell phones** and electronic devices before the start of each event. Feel free to tweet, post to Facebook, and use other social media to tell friends about your favorite authors. No flash photography or audio/visual recording is permitted.
- **The temperature** in the building can and does fluctuate, so it is best to dress in layers or bring a sweater.
- **The 15-minute intervals** between presentations are perfect times to purchase books and get your favorite authors to sign them. Authors will sign books between sessions next to the book store.
- **To access the Library WiFi**, sign onto the “RMLO-Public” network, open an internet browser app or window, and you are on!



Medical Emergency?

In case of a medical emergency please notify any of our staff. We would like to thank Eisenhower Health for providing medical staff onsite at the library during the Festival.



Have questions or need assistance?

There is a guest services desk at the west entrance to the Library where you will find a lost and found. Staff members are also eager to help. They are wearing RMWF polo shirts and STAFF badges.



Comments or Feedback?

We would love to hear what you liked and your suggestions. Email us at info@rmwritersfest.org.

GIVING BACK

WRITERS SERIES

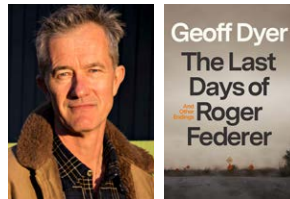
The RMWF experience is all year long. The Writers Series presents world class authors, notable leaders and celebrated speakers to the public free of charge. In 2022, the Foundation presented 15 Writers Series events, held in the Steinbeck Room at the Rancho Mirage Library. Over the course of 12 months, we will have given out over 4,400 books free to the community. To learn more, visit our website at www.rmwritersfest.org/rmwf-events/category/writers-series.

2022 WRITERS SERIES



Grant Ginder

Author of one of the most highly anticipated books of the year with rave reviews



Geoff Dyer

Acclaimed essayist and novelist blends criticism, memoir, and humorous banter in his new book



Congressman Adam Schiff

Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, spoke with Hon. Barbara Boxer about his revelatory account of the Trump presidency



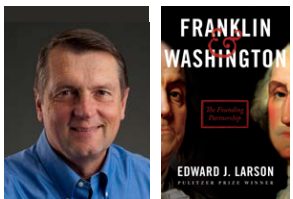
Annabelle Gurwitch

Actress, activist and bestselling author on her hilarious and timely look at the challenges of mid-life



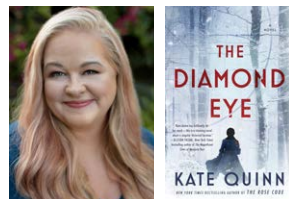
Ashley Weaver

Edgar-nominated author on her new book, a delightful World War II mystery



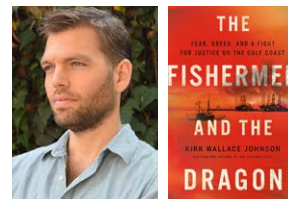
Edward J. Larson

Pulitzer Prize-winner on his masterful, first-of-its-kind dual biography



Kate Quinn

Bestselling author on her latest book, an enthralling historical novel based on a true story



Kirk Wallace Johnson

Gripping new book depicts a community set on fire by hatred, xenophobia and ecological disaster



Melissa Rivers

Bestselling author, award-winning producer and daughter of the late comedian Joan Rivers



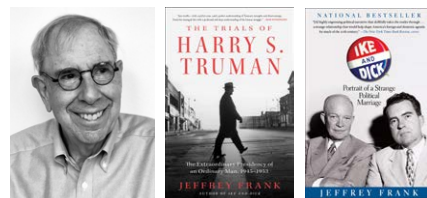
Janet Skeslien Charles

Award-winning author on her new book, the instant *New York Times* bestseller



Amy Odell

Veteran fashion and culture journalist wrote the definitive biography of Anna Wintour



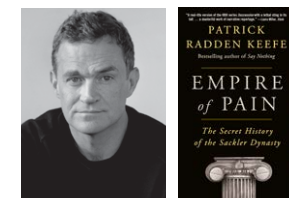
Jeffrey Frank

Bestselling author and former senior editor at *The New Yorker* presented two engrossing presidential biographies



James Burrows

Legendary sitcom director of *Friends*, *Cheers*, *Taxi* and *Will & Grace* spoke with David Lee, co-creator of *Wings* and *Frasier*



Patrick Radden Keefe

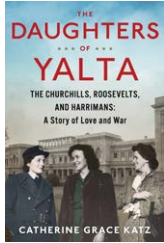
Award-winning staff writer at *The New Yorker* on his devastating portrait of the Sackler family



Delia Ephron

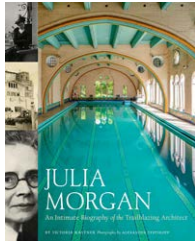
Bestselling author, screenwriter and playwright will discuss her new memoir.

2023 WRITERS SERIES



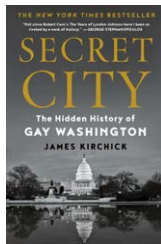
Thursday, March 2, 2023

Catherine Grace Katz is a writer and historian currently pursuing her JD at Harvard Law School. *The Daughters of Yalta* is the dramatic story of the three young women who were chosen by their fathers to travel with them to the Yalta Conference in 1945.



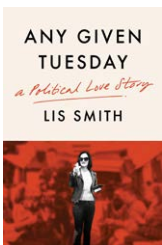
Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Victoria Kastner spent three decades as the official historian of Hearst Castle. Her new book is the definitive biography of the talented architect Julia Morgan, who designed Hearst Castle and an additional 700 buildings.



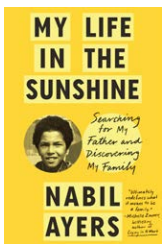
Thursday, March 9, 2023

Journalist **James Kirchick** speaks with **Adam Nagourney** of *The New York Times* about his new book, *Secret City: The Hidden History of Gay Washington*, a *New York Times* bestseller.



Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Political strategist **Lis Smith** speaks about her new book, *Any Given Tuesday*, a revealing political memoir that follows Smith from her earliest experiences as a college-aged intern to becoming one of the most sought-after operatives in the Democratic Party.



Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Musician and writer **Nabil Ayers** speaks about his memoir, *My Life in the Sunshine*, a thoughtful meditation on biracial identity, intimacy and finding true community. Ayers recounts his journey to build an identity of his own despite his father's absence.

RANCHO MIRAGE LIBRARY

The Rancho Mirage Writers Festival Foundation is committed to giving back to the community. A portion of our proceeds go to supporting programs and collection development for our partner, the award-winning Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory.

SHORT STORY DISPENSER

The Foundation purchased two short story dispensers for \$24,000 for the Eisenhower Health ER and the Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory. These innovative machines dispense delightful stories or poems for free on demand.

STUDENT SCHOLARS PROGRAMS

The Foundation supports a student scholar program, allowing high school and college students to attend the Festival as well as providing free streaming of the Festival sessions to high schools.

ON THE WRITERS SERIES

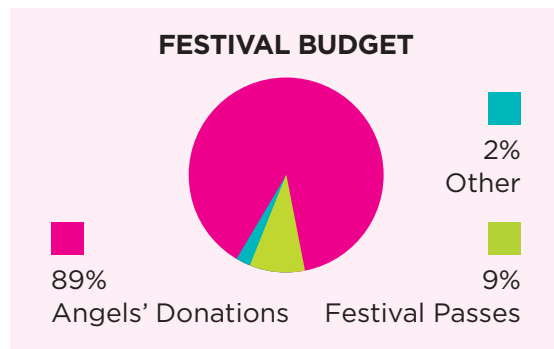
“Looking at the upcoming writers is like opening presents on Christmas morning.” — Lisa Walters, Palm Springs

BE AN ANGEL

With your tax-deductible donation you help support honoraria and travel for our truly amazing Festival writers.

Our Angels allow us to make this Festival a world-class event with some of the best writers in the world. With the support of our Angels we are also able to keep the cost of Festival passes low, compared to other festivals that charge as much as \$2,500 per person.

For the 2023 Festival, all Angel categories were sold out well in advance of the event. If you are interested in being an Angel for 2024, **contact Jamie Kabler at jkabler@rmwritersfest.org**.



Donations to the Rancho Mirage Writers Festival, a 501(C)(3) organization, are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Federal Tax ID number 37-1754922

Enjoy exclusive events • Mingle with writers and celebrity guests

Angels (\$5,000)

- **Two all access passes** (value of \$1,000).
- Lunches each day.
- Exclusive Angels event with **amazing guest speakers** and **reserved-seating** dinner.
- Dedicated Angel Concierges.
- Reserved **seating for Angels only** at the Festival.

Silver Angels (\$10,000)

Join our Silver Angels and receive these **additional** exclusive benefits.

- **Two reserved seats** in the front of the London room.
- Invitation to a **private dinner** with just the writers.
- **Signage and recognition** at the Festival.
- Concierge assistance in purchasing additional Festival passes.

Golden Angels (\$20,000)

Join our Golden Angels and receive these **additional** exclusive benefits.

- **Two golden chairs** in the London Room in the front row with your names.
- Invitation to a **private dinner** with just the writers.
- **Signage and recognition** at the Festival.
- Concierge assistance in purchasing additional Festival passes.

Platinum Angels (\$50,000)

Join our Platinum Angels and receive these **additional** exclusive benefits.

- **Two platinum chairs** in the London Room in the front row with your names.
- Invitation to a **private dinner** with just the writers.
- **Reserved table** for lunches.
- **Signage and recognition** at the Festival.
- Concierge assistance in purchasing additional Festival passes.

“I want to say a special word for the Angels in this room. It is because you have succeeded so well in your businesses and in your professions that you are able to be so generous in your philanthropy. And that means that those of us who do nothing except produce words for a living can enjoy extraordinary occasions like this one. So really from the bottom of my heart, and I know I speak for all the writers here, thank you.” — BRET STEPHENS, RMWF 2019

2023 SUPPORTERS

Triple Platinum Angel (\$150,000)

Helene Galen

Founding Angels

Helene Galen

Diane & Hal Gershowitz

Anne Holland

Lois Horvitz*

Donna MacMillan

Jan Salta

Platinum Angels (\$50,000)

Sherrie & Ron* Auen

Eisenhower Health

Peggy Jacobs & Bob Howard*

Harold Matzner

Lori & Michael Milken

Catharine & Sanford* Reed

Jan Salta

Arlene Schnitzer*

Jordan Schnitzer

Golden Angels (\$20,000)

SOLD OUT

Lynn Bremer
Edye & Eli* Broad
Lucyann & Jerry Carlton
Dan Clivner & Steven Cochran*
Mira Clivner
Bryn & Richard DeBeikes
Doris Donnelly, Peggy Roberts & Christopher Donnelly
Joel Douglas
Wendy & Robert Goodfriend
Anne Holland
Barbara & Ronnie Kahn
Renee Katz
Linda & Ed Kazazian
Carol & Henry Levy
Mary McCarthy & Warren Platt
Gayle & Brent Naylor
Patty & Arthur* Newman
Deborah & Kenneth Novack
Marion & Robert* Rosenthal
The Sacks Family
Cathy & Tod Spieker
Ambassador Tim Timken & Sue Timken

Event Sponsors (\$15,000)

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Doris Donnelly, Peggy Roberts & Christopher Donnelly
Marcy & Leo Edelstein
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Judy & Richard Guggenhime
Katherine & Judd Malkin
Ellen & Tom Tully

* In Memoriam

Silver Angels (\$10,000)

SOLD OUT

Carol Ammon & Dr. Marie Pinizzotto

Anonymous

Lynn & Brock Armstrong

Bunni & Rick Benaron

Sally* & Miles Berger

Robin & Robert Berman

Marlene Breslow-Blitstein & Berle Blitstein

Susan Boeing

Lynn Booth

Sandra & Robert* Borns

Sandy Bosley

Barbara & Alex Bowie

Rosemarie & Dean L. Buntrock

Pat & Ira Cohen

Diane & John Cooke

Joan Cortopassi

Senator John C. Danforth & Sally Danforth

Eunice David & Sid Kibrick

Marilyn & Terry Diamond

Sherry Dumke

Cynthia Farber

Jeannette & Raymond Galante

Diane & Hal Gershowitz

Yvonne & Leonard Gionet

Katie & David Gold

Ilene & Stanley Gold

Susan & Jim Gould

Lola & Duane* Hagadone

Val & Bill Hall

Linda & Mitch Hart

Cathy & Rick Hirschmann

Vicki & Bill* Hood

Frances Horwich

Althea & Bob Howe

Suz Hunt

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Barbara Rogers & Gary Geske

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Susan St. Louis & Dr. Khoi Le

Berry Stein

Deanie & Jay Stein

Robert Stolar

Diane Pace Sullivan

Lonna Wais & Jack Mettler

Faye & Gary Waldman

Mary A. Ward & Richard Enders

Marguerite & David Wilson

Sharon Wiviott

Senator Francis A. & Mary-Ann Wong

Angels (\$5,000)

SOLD OUT

Alice Abt
Toni Ackermann
Aileen Adams & Geoffrey Cowan
Mary Cunningham Agee
Jennie March-Aleu & Fernando Aleu
Nancy & Perry Altshule
Barbara Andersen
Diane Anderson
Janet & Steven Anixter
Judy Appelbaum & Barbara Appelbaum
Merle Dee Arenson
Mickey Ateyeh
Nora & Guy Barron
Barbara & Pete Bassi
Geoffrey Baum
Laura & Wayne Bellows
Christine Benter
Audrey Bernstein
Harriet Bernstein
Joann & Carl Bianco
Lynn & Les Bider
Chotsie Blank
Reena Blumenfeld
Carole Bookman
Senator Barbara Boxer & Stewart Boxer
Lynn & Doug Brengel
Sera & Gary Brill
Linda & Larry Brooks
Hon. Kathleen Brown & Van Gordon Sauter
Sallie & Allan Bulley
Janne & Henry Burdick
MJ Burns
Judy Campbell
Pat Benson & Gerry Chaleff

Lyn Chernis
Mark & Cindy Choate
Joanne & Bill Chunowitz
The Coeta & Donald Barker
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The Rancho Mirage Writers Festival is incredibly grateful for the generous support from the Rancho Mirage City Council. The Festival continually receives feedback from writers, Angels and readers that having the event hosted in a public library makes the experience so enriching and inspiring. In addition to hosting the annual Rancho Mirage Writers Festival for the past eight years in their public library, the City also provides operational support for the event, as the Festival is administered mostly by Library and City staff.

The level of support and enthusiasm from the Rancho Mirage City Council has aided the Writers Festival to become, in a relatively short period of time, *America's Best Writers Festival!* There are so many remarkable reasons why the City of Rancho Mirage is the ideal location for the Rancho Mirage Writers Festival each year. Paramount among them is the City's commitment to being the cultural center of the Palm Springs valley and its mission to inspire lifelong learning. The Rancho Mirage Writers Festival is honored to once again bring the 2023 Festival to the beautiful City of Rancho Mirage!

A big thank you to our amazing Rancho Mirage City Council for their continued support. Pictured: Councilmember Lynn Mallotto, Mayor Pro Tem Steve Downs, Mayor Richard Kite, Councilmember Meg Marker and Councilmember Ted Weill. Also thank you to their partners: Geri Downs, Becky Kite, Todd Marker and Jenny Weill.



Steve Quintanilla
City Attorney



Books are invitations to explore
all that is possible in life

Rancho Mirage City Attorney **Steve Quintanilla** and his able team of lawyers have given hundreds of hours of “pro bono” legal services to the Writers Festival. Their generous contribution has assisted in many ways, making the Festival a success since the first year, 2014. **Steven B. Quintanilla Attorneys:** Steven B. Quintanilla, Colin D. Kirkpatrick, Lisa Weaver-Nowak, Michael R. Cobden, Daniel Trevino II, Gulan F. Tahir. **Administrative Staff:** Monica Mata and Ana Fernandez.

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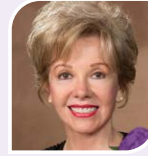
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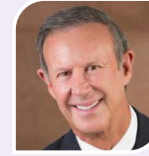
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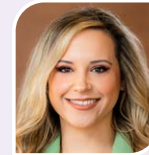
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Isaiah Hagerman
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City Manager

We would like to give special thanks to the many staff that help make the Rancho Mirage Writers Festival simply the best. A special thank you to Isaiah Hagerman for his support, guidance and leadership. Isaiah not only manages the day-to-day operations at one of California's best run cities, he also graciously accommodates for city staff to contribute to this iconic cultural festival of the written word at the City's award-winning library and observatory.



Robin Gold
Festival Advisor

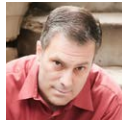
Robin Gold has helped catapult the Festival to a national audience by facilitating C-SPAN BookTV coverage and the vision of the RMWF Writers Series. Robin encouraged us to start the highly successful Rancho Mirage Writers Series and introduced us to our bookstore Follett at the College of the Desert. She is an integral partner in our Festival and Writers Series.

HALL of FAME

FESTIVAL WRITERS 2014-2020



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Matthew Dickman



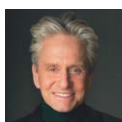
Michael Dickman



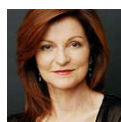
Lord Michael Dobbs



Cameron Douglas



Michael Douglas



Maureen Dowd



Geoff Dyer



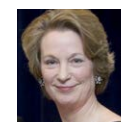
Philip Eade



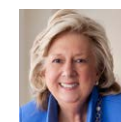
David Ebershoff



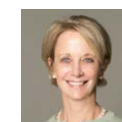
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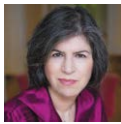
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Meryl Gordon



Jonathan Gottschall



Peggy Grande



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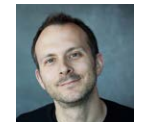
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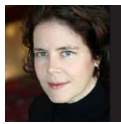
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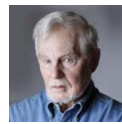
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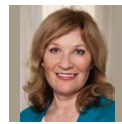
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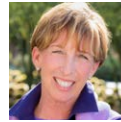
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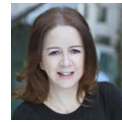
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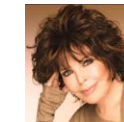
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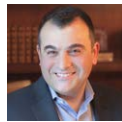
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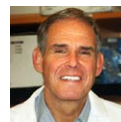
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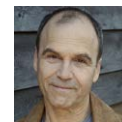
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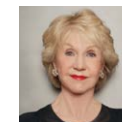
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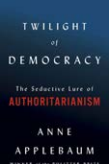

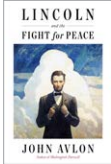





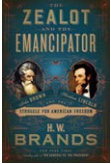

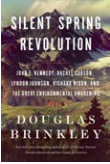

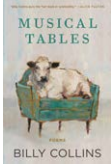



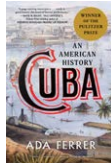





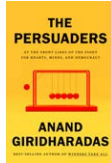

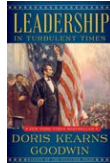

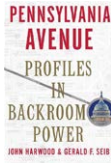

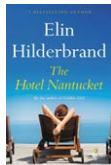
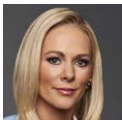




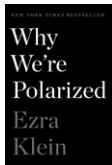





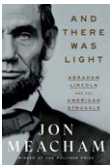





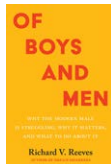

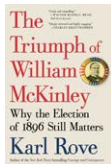







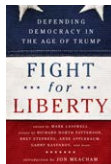





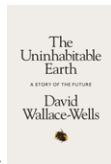





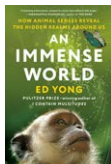


Richard Zoglin

2024 INVITED WRITERS AND GUESTS

“CELEBRATING TEN YEARS OF RMWF” • JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 2, 2024

Here is a sneak peek of some of the writers and guests, with more to come!

 José Andrés	 Founder of World Central Kitchen	 Anne Applebaum	 TWILIGHT OF DEMOCRACY THE SEDUCTIVE LURE OF AUTHORITARIANISM ANNE APPLEBAUM	 John Avlon	 LINCOLN with FIGHT for PEACE JOHN AVLON	 Jon Robin Baitz	 BROTHERS & SISTERS	 Kurt Bardella	 Contributor to NBC News	 H.W. Brands	 ZEALOT EMANCIPATOR B.W. BRANDS	 Douglas Brinkley	 SILENT SPRING REVOLUTION DOUGLAS BRINKLEY	 Billy Collins	 MUSICAL TABLES BILLY COLLINS
 Lord Julian Fellowes	 GILDED AGE DOWNTON ABBEY	 Ada Ferrer	 CUBA AN AMERICAN HISTORY ADA FERRER	 Jonathan Franzen	 JONATHAN FRANZEN CROSSROADS FRANZEN	 David Gergen	 HEARTS TOUCHED WITH FIRE HOW GREAT LEADERS ARE MADE DAVID GERGEN	 Anand Giridharadas	 THE PERSUADERS ANAND GIRIDHARADAS	 Doris Kearns Goodwin	 LEADERSHIP DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN	 John Harwood	 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE PROFILES IN BACKROOM POWER JOHN HARWOOD & RONALD E. SOHL		
 Elin Hilderbrand	 Elin Hilderbrand The Hotel Nantucket	 Margaret Hoover	 FIRING LINE with MARGARET HOOPER Appears in Firing Line with Margaret Hoover	 Dave Karger	 TCM TURNER CLASSIC MOVIES Author of forthcoming 50 Oscar Nights	 Ezra Klein	 Why We're Polarized Ezra Klein	 Hugo Lowell	 The Guardian MSNBC	 James McBride	 Deacon King Kong James McBride	 Jon Meacham	 AND THERE WAS LIGHT JON MEACHAM		
 Ari Melber	 MSNBC Chief Legal Correspondent for MSNBC	 Reince Priebus	 Former White House Chief of Staff	 Richard Reeves	 OF BOYS AND MEN Richard V. Reeves	 Karl Rove	 The Triumph of William McKinley Why the Election of 1896 Still Matters Karl Rove	 Mark Rozzo	 Everybody Thought We Were Crazy Mark Rozzo	 Michael Schur	 the office SQUAD ROLLING DEEP BROOKLYN NINE-NINE Paris Recreation	 Bina Shah	 BEFORE SHE SLEEPS A NOVEL BINA SHAH		
 Bret Stephens	 DEFENDING DEMOCRACY IN THE AGE OF TRUMP FIGHT ... for ... LIBERTY BRET STEPHENS	 Katy Tur	 KATY TUR ROUGH DRAFT	 Matt Tyrnauer	 valentino	 David Wallace-Wells	 The Uninhabitable Earth A STORY OF THE FUTURE David Wallace-Wells	 John Waters	 LIAR'S PATH A PERSO-NAD HORROR JOHN WATERS	 Ali Wentworth	 Ali's Well That Ends Well ALI WENTWORTH	 Ed Yong	 AN IMMENSE WORLD ED YONG		

PASSES GO ON SALE MARCH 1, 2023

The Tenth Annual Rancho Mirage Writers Festival will be January 31–February 2, 2024.

For the sixth time, the cost for passes will remain at \$500, thanks to the generosity of our Angels. Passes for the 2024 RMWF will go on sale March 1, 2023, at 9:00 am PST. Look for emails with more details.



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