



10 YEARS
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

TENTH ANNUAL RANCHO MIRAGE WRITERS FESTIVAL

AT THE RANCHO MIRAGE LIBRARY AND OBSERVATORY

JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 2, 2024

2024 marks the tenth anniversary of the Rancho Mirage Writers Festival, and we are honored to celebrate this milestone with you. The continued success of RMWF is a testament to the enduring love for the written word as well as a celebration of the partnership between our Festival, our Readers and Angels and the City of Rancho Mirage.

Over the years, our Festival has evolved into a vibrant cultural hub that transcends mere words on paper. It is confirmation of the power of storytelling, the resilience of the human spirit and the boundless curiosity that resides within all of us. Over the past decade, we have been honored to host some of the world's most celebrated authors, poets, journalists and thinkers. Their words have ignited our imaginations, challenged our perceptions and, above all, brought us together in the spirit of intellectual exploration.

But no literary festival can thrive without its Angels—those dedicated individuals and organizations whose unwavering support and commitment have been the wind beneath our wings. To our generous Angels, we extend our heartfelt gratitude.

We'd also like to express our sincere thanks to the Readers. Your passion for books, your hunger for knowledge and your eagerness to engage with authors and their works are the lifeblood and very essence of this gathering. The enthusiasm you bring to our events, the questions you pose during Q&A sessions and the connections you forge with fellow book lovers enrich the experience for us all.

As we celebrate our 10th anniversary, we salute the City of Rancho Mirage on their 50th Anniversary, and we acknowledge the invaluable partnership with the City of Rancho Mirage. Their unwavering support and collaboration have enabled us to transform the city into a literary oasis. The City's commitment to nurturing culture and education has been instrumental in the Festival's growth, allowing us to cultivate a space where the written word thrives.

We would like to give a special thank you to the Auen Foundation for underwriting the videotaping of all the Festival sessions. Because of their support we have broadened our reach and become an international Festival with millions of viewers from all over the world, ensuring RMWF will live on forever.

We are honored to celebrate this extraordinary journey of words, wisdom and wonder with you and look forward to the next ten years of the Rancho Mirage Writers Festival.



Jamie Kabler
FESTIVAL FOUNDER



Aaron Espinosa
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Debbie Green Miller
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER



Deborah C. Dejah
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING

“It’s a feast of books and subjects.”

— Dr. Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress

“It’s become the coveted event of the year for the desert.”

— Jan Salta, RMWF Founding Angel

“It’s amazing how big and extensive and well attended this is both by writers and by the community.”

— Karl Rove

“We have an opportunity to grow, to step outside our narrow provincial confines and to imagine ourselves in more expansive terms. We can become better people.”

— Eddie S. Glaude Jr.

“This is the best Writers Festival in the Country.”

— Robert Shrum

“The depth of the discussions has been really something.”

— Congressman Joe Kennedy III

“It’s so meaningful to get to meet readers in person. It’s like this fire hose of information.”

— Anthony Doerr



“Thank you for creating, coordinating, and executing such a remarkable event. The RMWF is by far my most favorite event of the year. That you bring the experience of an expanded world view to our community is truly a gift.”

— Rita Lamb, Cathedral City Mayor

“This is a fantastic way to see some of the greatest writers really in our country.”

— Rachel Arnold, RMWF Reader

“The Super Bowl of writer’s conventions.”

— Blair Sabol

“I was amazed at the list of writers. It’s really top tier.”

— Ben Rhodes

“This is a remarkable Festival. The literary giants that are in the room speak volumes to how important Rancho Mirage is to the literary community.”

— Admiral William H. McRaven

“I love the incredible cross section of people here. It’s an incredibly diverse group of authors.”

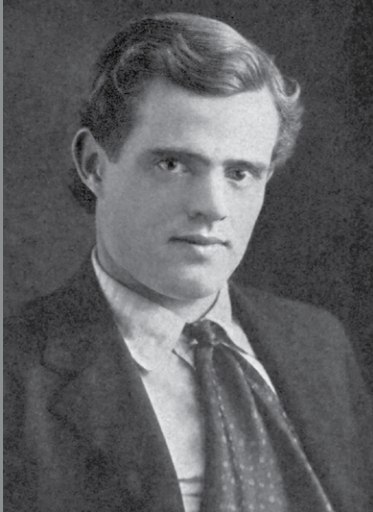
— Julia Quinn

“It brings together an extraordinary group of very talented writers, politicians, professionals, opinion columnists.”

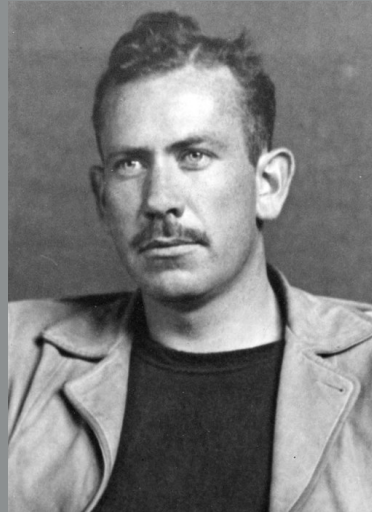
— William Bratton

DID YOU KNOW?

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



Jack London



John Steinbeck



Walt Disney



Joan Didion



Best READERS of any festival
Best PROGRAM of any festival
Best CHAIRS of any festival
Best BOX LUNCHES of any festival
Best SOUND AND VIDEO of any festival
Best PASTRIES of any festival
Best OUTDOOR PAVILION 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
Best free, year-round WRITERS SERIES
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!


2 
GRAMMY
AWARDS

4 
EMMY
AWARDS

3 
AUDIE
AWARDS

2 
NATIONAL
BOOK
AWARDS

7 
PULITZER
PRIZES

3 
BRONZE
STAR
MEDALS

 1 PRITZKER
ARCHITECTURE PRIZE

 1 PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL
OF FREEDOM

RMWF
2024

 1 STAR ON HOLLYWOOD
WALK OF FAME

72
FESTIVAL
SESSIONS

76
WRITERS AND
SPECIAL GUESTS

 5

GUGGENHEIM MEMORIAL
FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIPS



ANGEL NIGHT 2024

This special evening is our THANK YOU to our Angels, without whom we could not be able to bring the best writers to RMWF

We are honored to have decorated U.S. military **General David H. Petraeus** open the 2024 Festival on Angel Night in conversation with **Lesley Stahl** from *60 Minutes*.

General David H. Petraeus (retired) is a four-star general and former Director of the CIA whose distinguished career spanned 37 years. General Petraeus has been described as one of the “great battle captains of American history.” He will appear at the 2024 RMWF to discuss the most significant global challenges facing us today, including international security issues, macroeconomic trends and the task of strategic leadership in the twenty-first century. He is the co-author of *Conflict: The Evolution of Warfare from 1945 to Ukraine*.

Lesley Stahl is one of America’s most honored and experienced broadcast journalists. Her rich career has been marked by political scoops, investigations, compelling features and award-winning foreign reporting—a body of work that won her the Lifetime Achievement Emmy for overall excellence in reporting.

This event will be livestreamed for all attendees and also recorded

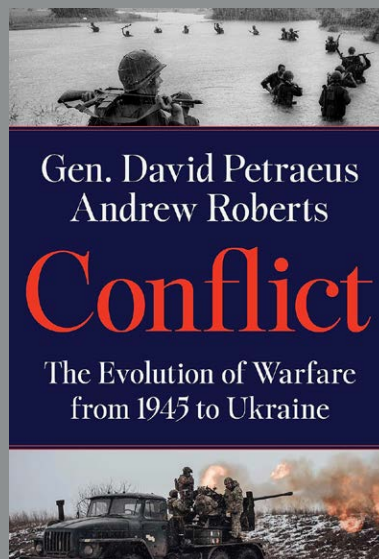
We will send an email with a link for the livestream, or visit our website, rmwritersfest.org on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, for the link.



General Petraeus retirement ceremony 2011 (photo: Chad J. McNeeley)



Iraq 2008 (photo: Maya Alleruzzo)



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 Jamie Kabler



Jordan Schnitzer



Harold Matzner



Eisenhower Health



Jan Salta (photo: Lani Garfield)



Admiral William H. McRaven, Robert Shrum, Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis, Hon. Barbara and Stewart Boxer (photo: Jennifer Yount Photography)



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



Bret Stephens
(photo: Michael Segal)



Sherrie Auen and Catharine Reed (photo: Lani Garfield)



Helene Galen, Marion Rosenthal and Jan Salta (photo: Lani Garfield)

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

How Not to Age

Dr. Michael Greger

Wednesday 8:30–9:15 am

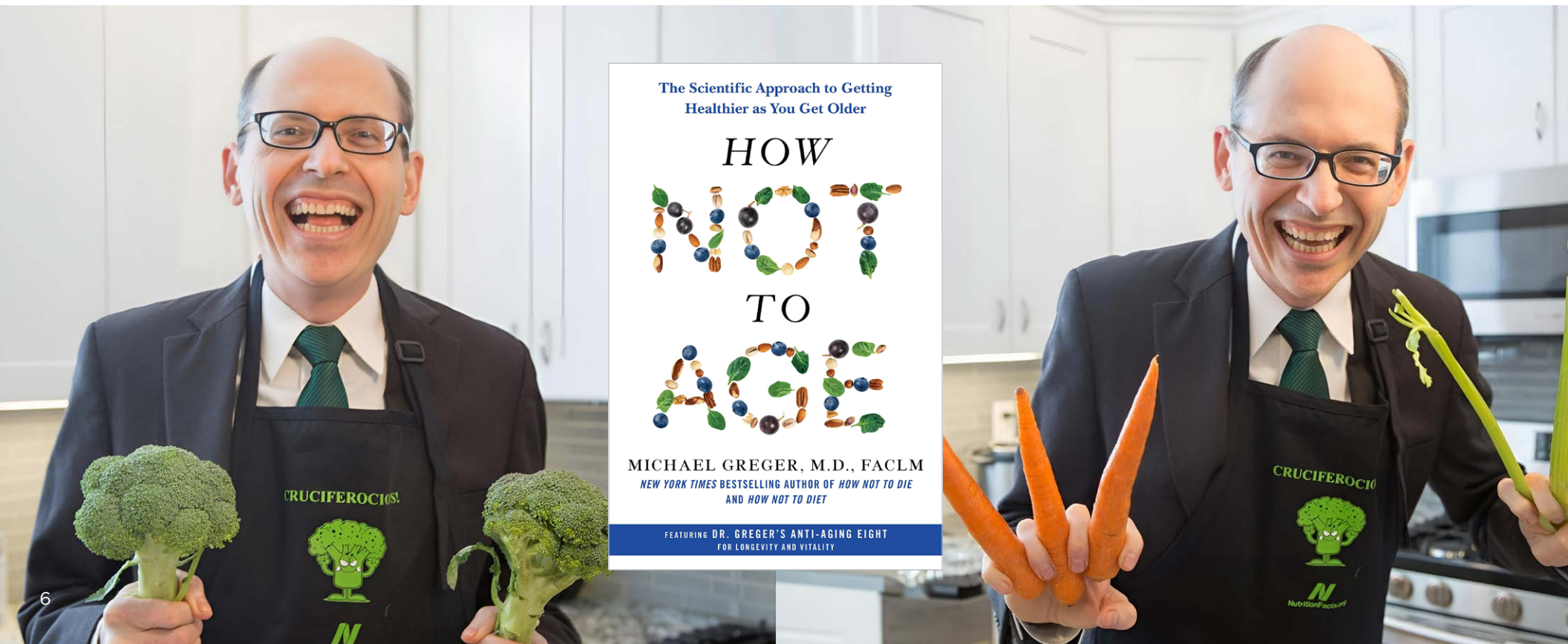
Jack London Room

When **Dr. Michael Greger**, founder of NutritionFacts.org, dove into the top peer-reviewed anti-aging medical research, he realized that diet could regulate every one of the most promising strategies for combating the effects of aging. We don't need Big Pharma to keep us feeling young—we already have the tools. In *How Not to Age*, the internationally renowned physician and nutritionist breaks down the science of aging and chronic illness and explains how to help avoid the diseases most commonly encountered in our journeys through life.

The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

This session will be simulcast in

the Outdoor Pavilion for Readers



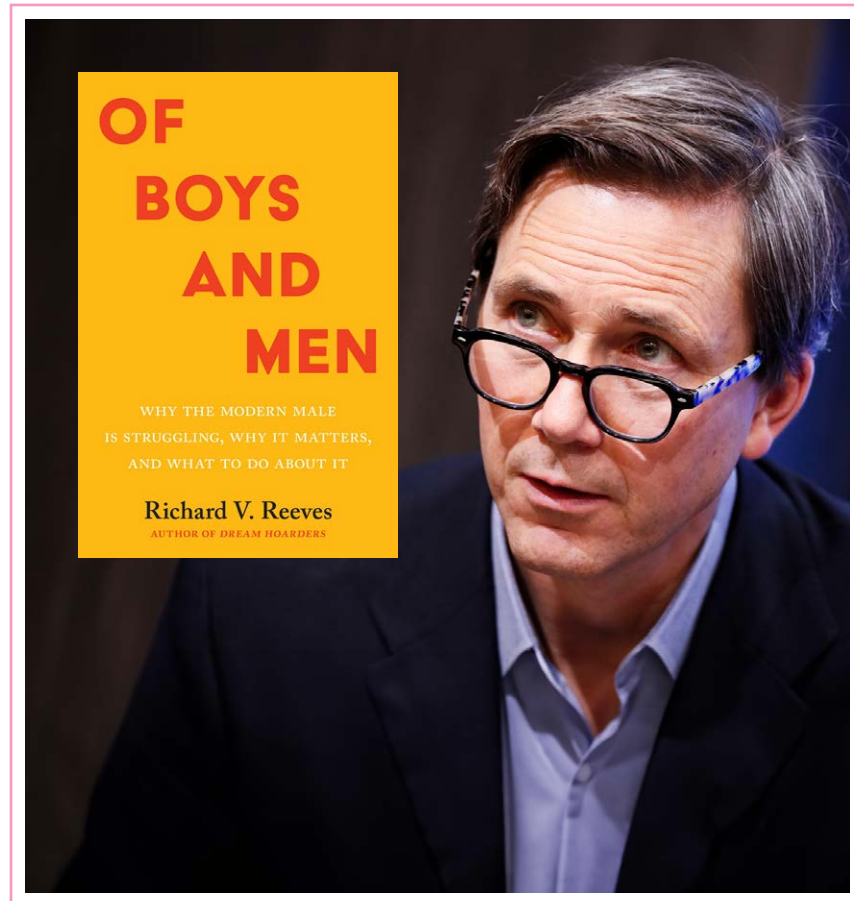
The Crisis of Modern Masculinity

Richard Reeves with Dr. Khoi Le

Wednesday 8:30–9:15 am

John Steinbeck Room

Boys and men are struggling. Profound economic and social changes of recent decades have many losing ground in the classroom, in the workplace and in the family. While the lives of women have changed, the lives of many men have remained the same or even worsened. A journalist, scholar and the father of three sons, **Richard Reeves** has spent years worrying about boys both at home and work. Please join Reeves in conversation with **Dr. Khoi Le** as they take a look at the structural challenges that face boys and men today and what we can do to help them.



A History of *The New York Times* from 1976–2016

Adam Nagourney with Kurt Bardella

Wednesday 8:30–9:15 am

Walt Disney Room

The new book by **Adam Nagourney**, who has worked at the *Times* since 1996, offers an in-depth look at how a newspaper navigated reporting challenges, financial crises and the transition to the digital era. Join Nagourney and **Kurt Bardella** as they discuss the history of *The New York Times*, beginning in 1976 and ending with the 2016 presidential election. Together they recount the paper's triumphs as well as failures that threatened the "Gray Lady's" standing and reputation.



Witness to a Prosecution: The Myth of Michael Milken

Richard V. Sandler with Mary Hart

Wednesday 8:30–9:15 am

Joan Didion Room

Richard V. Sandler worked on Michael Milken's legal team during the most intensive securities law investigation of its time. Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc. and Milken were indicted by then U.S. Prosecutor Rudy Giuliani. Sandler is joined in conversation by **Mary Hart** to discuss the what, how and why of what happened to Milken and how this could happen to anyone that comes within the sights of an aggressive, ambitious prosecutor.



Photo: *New York Post*



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

The Young Turks on Politics Today

John Avlon, Kurt Bardella and Hugo Lowell
with Adam Nagourney (moderator)

Wednesday 9:30–10:15 am

Jack London Room

Meet the new faces of broadcast journalism appearing on your favorite news channels. These “Young Turks” are changing the media landscape and appealing to a younger audience. Join **John Avlon** of CNN, **Kurt Bardella** of MSNBC, **Hugo Lowell** of MSNBC and *The Guardian* and **Adam Nagourney** of *The New York Times* as they discuss the latest in events happening in politics today.

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This session will be simulcast in

the Outdoor Pavilion for Readers



CNN



MSNBC



MSNBC



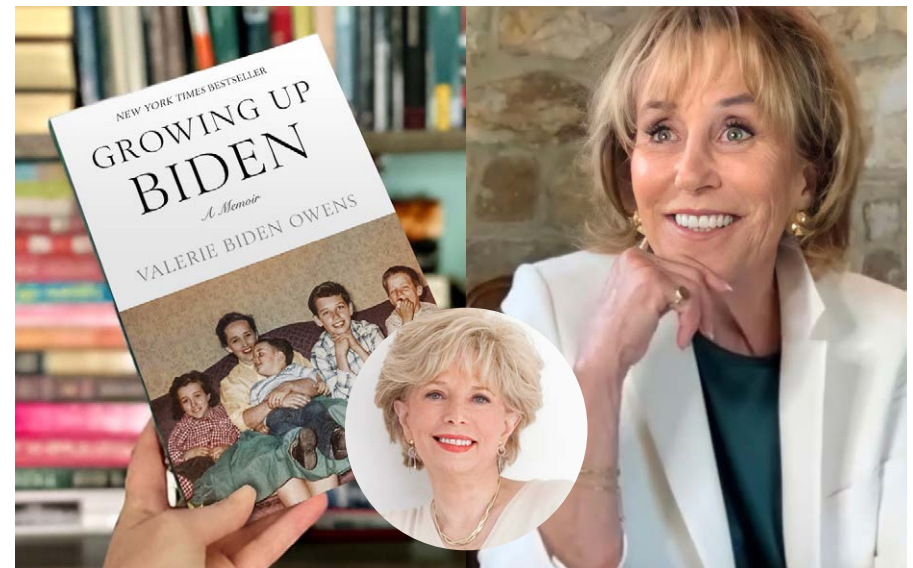
The New York Times

**Valerie Biden Owens and Lesley Stahl
in Conversation**

Valerie Biden Owens and Lesley Stahl

Wednesday 9:30–10:15 am

John Steinbeck Room



Valerie Biden Owens is the first woman in U.S. history to have run a presidential campaign— that of her brother, Joseph R. Biden, Jr. She also led his seven straight U.S. Senate victories and has been his principal surrogate on the campaign trail. Her memoir, *Growing Up Biden*, brings readers into the Biden home and shares her stories from growing up in Delaware as the only daughter of the close-knit Irish Catholic family. She is joined by **Lesley Stahl** to talk about growing up a Biden.

“ **My life was doing what I wanted to do and what I could do best. I could talk about Joe Biden much better than Joe Biden could talk about Joe Biden.**”

—Valerie Biden Owens



Photos: Andrew McCarthy/Instagram



Walking with Sam

Andrew McCarthy with Johan Sorensen
Wednesday 9:30–10:15 am
Walt Disney Room

Actor and travel writer **Andrew McCarthy's** bestselling book, *Walking with Sam*, recounts an emotional five-week trek through Spain with his 19-year-old son, Sam. The Camino de Santiago is a grueling 500-mile pilgrimage of medieval origin that ends at the Cathedral of Santiago in the northwest of Spain. McCarthy had completed the same walk with his own father and wanted to create a more meaningful relationship with his teenage son before he flew the nest. Join McCarthy and fellow Camino trekker **Johan Sorensen** as he recounts the grueling, five-week journey across Spain: an often difficult but ultimately bonding experience between a father and son.

The Age of Bill Clinton: America and the World in the 1990s

Douglas Brinkley

Wednesday 9:30–10:15 am

Joan Didion Room

President William J. Clinton was one of the most consequential and controversial politicians in American history and the man who dominated the 1990s, just as Ronald Reagan dominated the 1980s and Franklin Roosevelt dominated the 1930s. Clinton would describe his primary achievement as “he had to make America work in a new world” in an era of intense technological transformation. Historian **Douglas Brinkley** looks back on Clinton’s America, a time of peace, progress and prosperity.



1993: Bill Clinton signs NAFTA (photo: Paul J. Richards/AFP via Getty Images)

Lessons on Leadership

Admiral William H. McRaven and General David H. Petraeus with Bret Stephens (moderator)

Wednesday 10:30–11:15 am

Jack London Room

Bret Stephens sits down with two of our country's leaders, **Admiral William H. McRaven** and **General David H. Petraeus**, both with long and distinguished careers in the military and beyond. They share invaluable insight into how their years on the frontlines of America's wars taught them lessons in adaptability, integrity and decision-making. Please join these distinguished military leaders as they discuss the essence of effective leadership.

The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

This session will be simulcast in

the Outdoor Pavilion for Readers



Photo: U.S. Navy SEAL training



Photo: mwi.westpoint.edu

Work, Love, Play

Doris Kearns Goodwin and Lesley Stahl with Douglas Brinkley (moderator)

Wednesday 10:30–11:15 am

John Steinbeck Room

Doris Kearns Goodwin and **Lesley Stahl**, bestselling authors and two of America's most honored and experienced professionals in their respective fields of history and journalism, join together for the first time on this stage to discuss psychologist Erik Erikson's observation that we need to balance three needs—love, work and play—in order to live a life fulfilled. While the two share stories of how admired people from history have done so, they also examine their own lives—both juggling their marriages to writers, being mothers and now grandmothers, along with illustrious public careers that have spanned five decades each—and counting.



The Oral History of Hollywood: The Insider's Story

Sam Wasson with Scott McGee

Wednesday 10:30–11:15 am

Walt Disney Room

Sam Wasson tells the real story of Hollywood as told by such luminaries as Steven Spielberg, Frank Capra, Katharine Hepburn, Meryl Streep, Harold Lloyd and nearly four hundred others, assembled from the American Film Institute's treasure trove of interviews. **Scott McGee** joins Wasson to talk about a fresh history of the American movie industry from its beginnings to today.



Carole Lombard and John Barrymore on the set of *Twentieth Century* (photo: Hulton Archive/Getty Images)

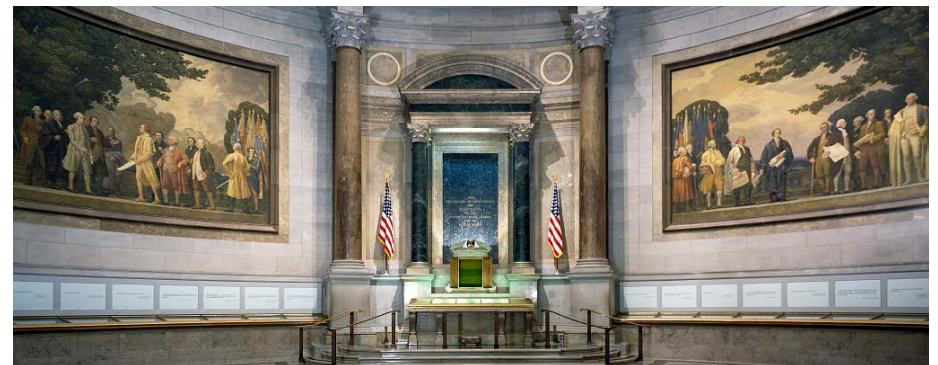
The National Archives and the History of the Presidential Records Act

David S. Ferriero and Justice Douglas Miller

Wednesday 10:30–11:15 am

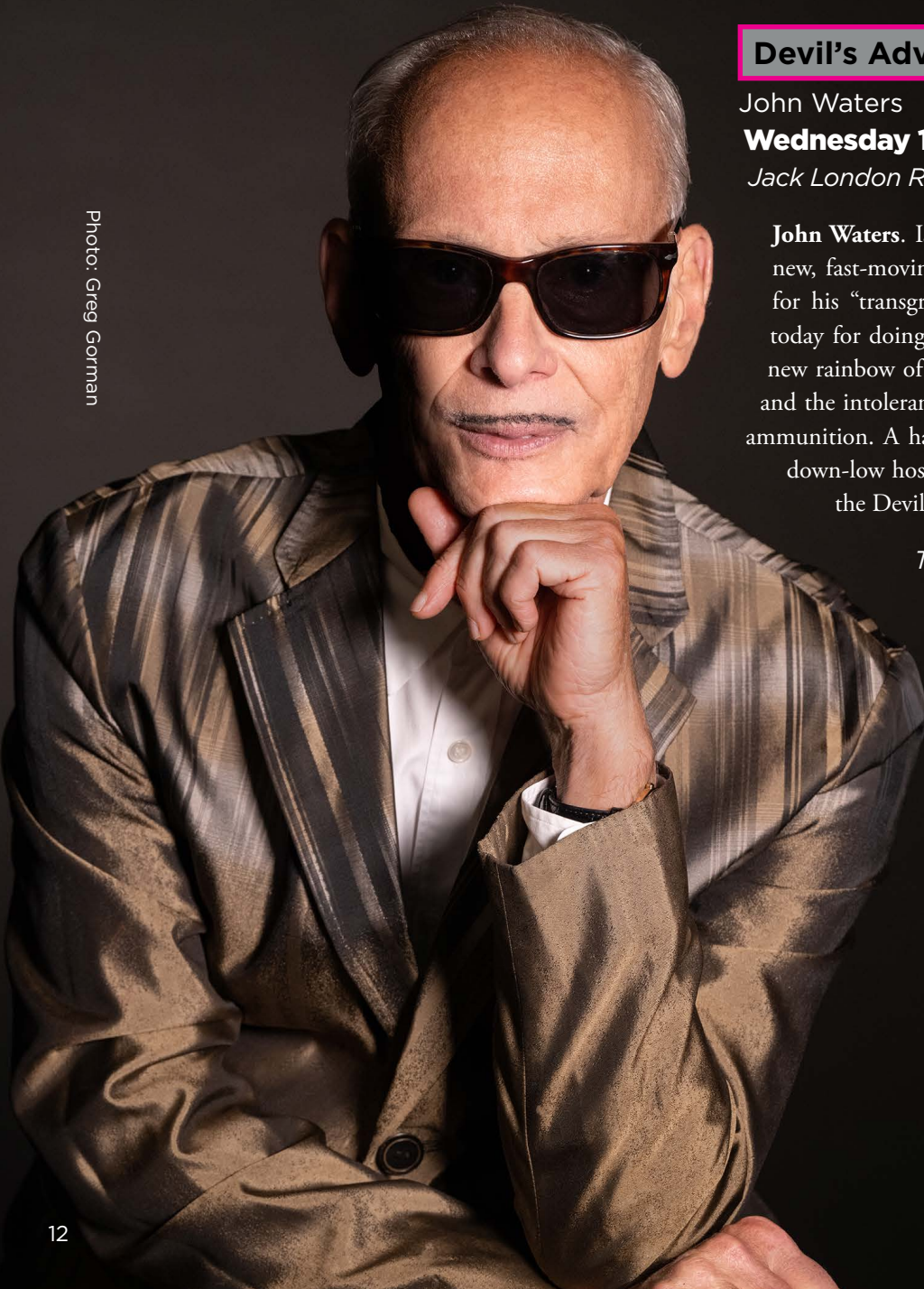
Joan Didion Room

Former National Archivist **David S. Ferriero** and **Justice Douglas Miller** discuss the role of the Archivist and the importance of collecting physical information and materials. The National Archives are the home of the nation's most valuable treasures and historical documents. They will discuss the history behind the 1978 Presidential Records Act and the critical role of the Archivist and National Archives in preserving these important documents for history and in protecting our democracy.



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

Photo: Greg Gorman



Devil's Advocate

John Waters

Wednesday 11:30 am–12:15 pm

Jack London Room

John Waters. Is he a cautionary contrarian, a reactionary radical or a true devil's advocate? In this all-new, fast-moving, part-confessional, part-inquisitional comic spoken word show, the filth elder known for his "transgressive" films and his "subversive" books salutes the new gender-guerilla generation of today for doing the impossible—actually making him nervous. Together, he demands, we must form a new rainbow of rancid colors and seize back the sexual revolution from the self-righteousness of the left and the intolerance of the right. A new middle-of-the-road madness that uses humor as terrorism, wit as ammunition. A happy family of all-age, cuckoo crossover: hip-hop hippies, pansy punks, queer gangstas, down-low hos and shit-kicking skeezers. We're here. We sneer. Don't get used to us. John Waters—he's the Devil's Advocate and his questions must be answered. (*Written by John Waters*)

The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

This session will be simulcast in

the Outdoor Pavilion for Readers

OPENING LUNCHEON

12:15 pm: Join us outside for a delicious boxed lunch of your choice.

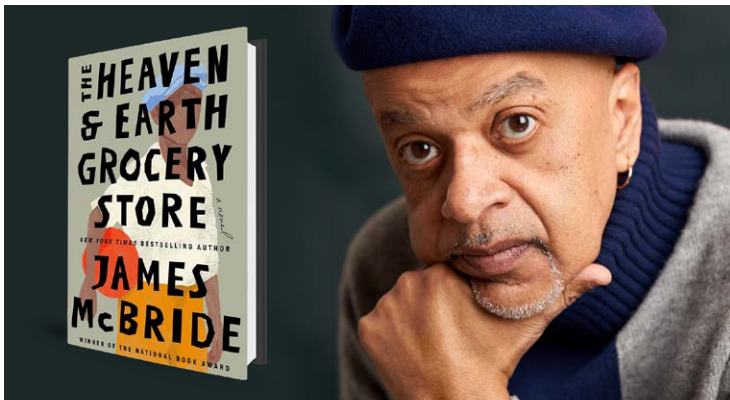
U.S. Presidential Elections Now and Then

H.W. Brands, Douglas Brinkley and Karl Rove

Wednesday 11:30 am-12:15 pm

John Steinbeck Room

From FDR to Barack Obama to Donald Trump, our nation has endured through the best of times and the worst of times. Historians, authors and keen political observers **H.W. Brands**, **Douglas Brinkley** and **Karl Rove** come together to talk about some of our country's most consequential past presidential elections and how the democratic experiment has continued to succeed.



A Conversation with James McBride

James McBride with Zoe Lukov

Wednesday 11:30 am-12:15 pm

Walt Disney Room

James McBride is an award-winning author, musician and screenwriter. His landmark memoir, *The Color of Water*, sold millions of copies and spent more than two years on the *New York Times* bestseller list, and his 2013 novel, *The Good Lord Bird*, won the National Book Award for Fiction. **Zoe Lukov** sits down with McBride to talk about his latest book, *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*, his writing life, musical gifts and being the worst dancer in the history of African Americana (in his own words).

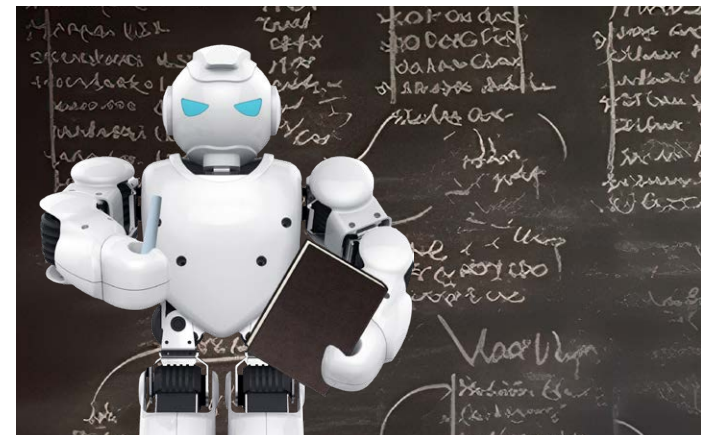
A Ghostwriter of the Masses: AI/ChatGPT and the Future of Writing

Kashmir Hill, Mark Rozzo and Matt Tyrnauer

Wednesday 11:30 am-12:15 pm

Joan Didion Room

AI/ChatGPT is all over the news these days, and it's hard not to wonder about the potential threat it poses to writers of all kinds. Many agree that it cannot replace the creativity, empathy or critical thinking skills that humans possess. Writers bring their own unique perspectives, experiences and insights to their writing. They are capable of weaving together different ideas, emotions and perspectives in ways that are fresh and thought-provoking, something AI/ChatGPT cannot do... yet. Please join our panelists as they discuss the pros and cons of AI/ChatGPT and the implications for the future of writing.



Wednesday 1-1:45 pm

Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory

Growing Up Biden

Hon. Barbara Boxer, Jon Meacham and Valerie Biden Owens

Wednesday 1-1:45 pm

Jack London Room

Valerie Biden Owens is the first woman in U.S. history to have run a presidential campaign—that of her brother, Joseph R. Biden, Jr. She also led his seven straight U.S. Senate victories and has been his principal surrogate on the campaign trail. Her memoir, *Growing Up Biden*, brings readers into the Biden home and shares her stories from growing up in Delaware as the only daughter of the close-knit Irish Catholic family. **Hon. Barbara Boxer** and **Jon Meacham** sit down with Biden Owens to talk about the challenges she faced and the central role she played in her brother's life as an insightful adviser, an ever-loyal advocate and best friend.

The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

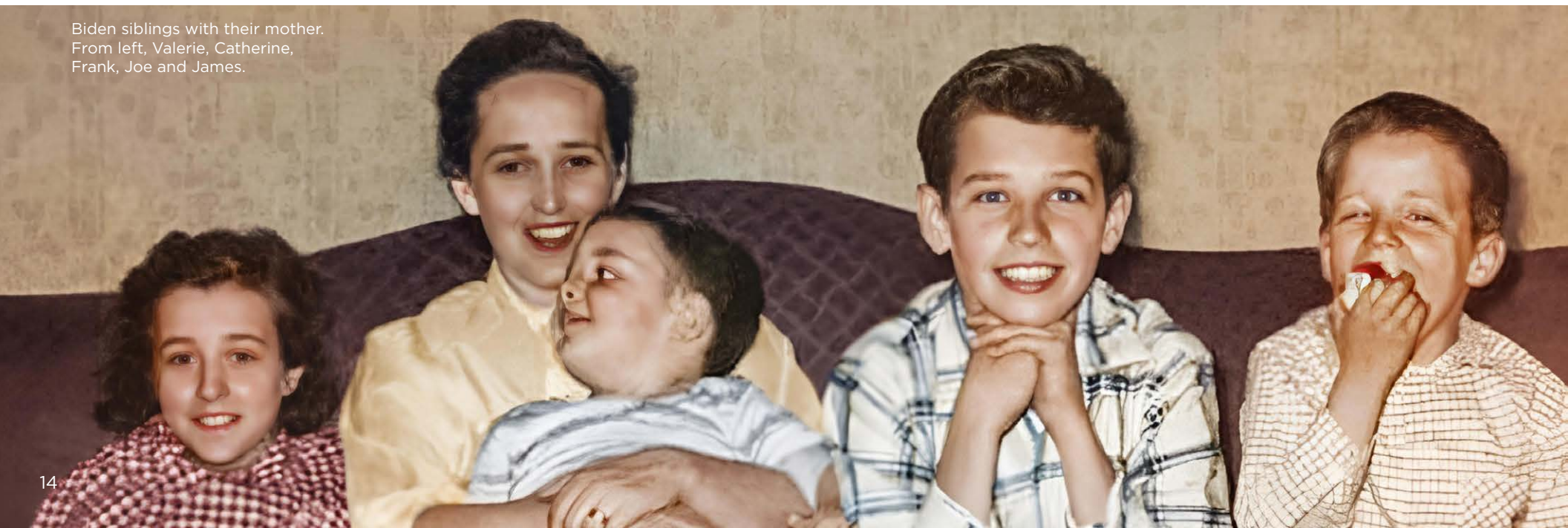
This session will be simulcast in

the Outdoor Pavilion for Readers

“**My life was doing what I wanted to do and what I could do best. I could talk about Joe Biden much better than Joe Biden could talk about Joe Biden.**” —Valerie Biden Owens



Biden siblings with their mother.
From left, Valerie, Catherine,
Frank, Joe and James.



How Not to Age

Dr. Michael Greger with Dr. Khoi Le

Wednesday 1-1:45 pm

John Steinbeck Room

When **Dr. Michael Greger**, founder of NutritionFacts.org, dove into the top peer-reviewed anti-aging medical research, he realized that diet could regulate every one of the most promising strategies for combating the effects of aging. We don't need Big Pharma to keep us feeling young—we already have the tools. In *How Not to Age*, the internationally renowned physician and nutritionist breaks down the science of aging and chronic illness and explains how to help avoid the diseases most commonly encountered in our journeys through life.



Photo: NutritionFacts.org

Introduction to Poetry

Billy Collins

Wednesday 1-1:45 pm

Walt Disney Room



Photo: Bill Hayes

“
...the trouble with poetry is
that it encourages the writing
of more poetry...”

— **Billy Collins**, *The Trouble with Poetry
and Other Poems*

Dubbed “the most popular poet in America” by *The New York Times*, **Billy Collins** is famous for conversational, witty poems that welcome readers with humor but often slip into quirky, tender or profound observation on the everyday, reading and writing and poetry itself. Please join Collins to find out why he is a two-time U.S. Poet Laureate.

Dennis Hopper, Brooke Hayward, and 1960s Los Angeles

Mark Rozzo with Scott McGee

Wednesday 1-1:45 pm

Joan Didion Room

Los Angeles in the 1960s: riots in Watts and on the Sunset Strip; wild weekends in Malibu; late nights at The Daisy discotheque; openings at the Ferus Gallery; and the convergence of pop art, rock and roll and the New Hollywood. At the center of it all, one inspired, improbable and highly combustible couple—Dennis Hopper and Brooke Hayward—lived out the emblematic love story of '60s L.A. Author and educator **Mark Rozzo** recounts the intimate saga of one couple whose own rise and fall—from youthful creative flowering to disorder and chaos—mirrors the very shape of the decade. He is joined on stage by **Scott McGee**.

“
Those years in the sixties
when I was married to Dennis were
the most wonderful and awful of
my life.” —**Brooke Hayward**



Wednesday 2-2:45 pm

Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory

Storytelling

Jon "Robbie" Baitz and Doris Kearns Goodwin with Sam Wasson (moderator)

Wednesday 2-2:45 pm

Jack London Room

Playwright, Drama Desk Award winner, Guggenheim Fellow and Pulitzer Prize finalist **Jon "Robbie" Baitz** and Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer and historian **Doris Kearns Goodwin** discuss the art and craft of storytelling with social historian and bestselling author **Sam Wasson**. Join them as they share their own process of identifying and creating a compelling story that will have a meaningful impact on culture and society. Everyone enjoys a good story!

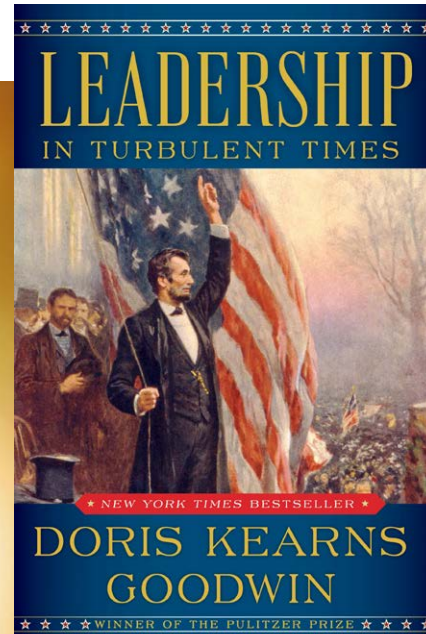
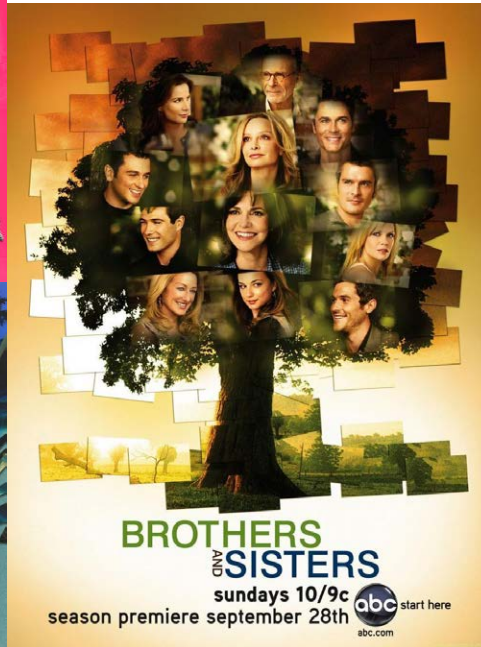
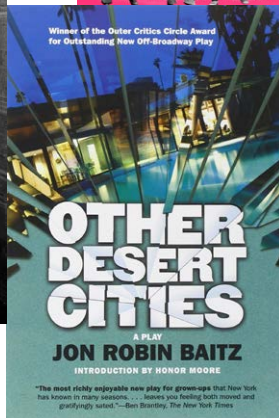
The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

This session will be simulcast in

the Outdoor Pavilion for Readers



Babe Paley, Truman Capote and Amanda Burden (photo: Ullstein Bild)



The Media Ecosystem and Presidential Elections

John Avlon, Margaret Hoover and Bret Stephens
with Robert Shrum (moderator)

Wednesday 2-2:45 pm

John Steinbeck Room



Join our panel as they delve into the complex and contentious relationship between the American public and the news media, exploring the question of whether this dynamic is contributing to the growing polarization within the United States. Our panel brings together distinguished journalists, political insiders and scholars to shed light on the challenges faced by the news media in an era of rapid technological advancements, changing media consumption habits and political divisiveness. They examine the role of media in shaping public opinion, influencing political discourse and fostering or exacerbating ideological divisions during this presidential election year.

Banned Books and the Role of Public Libraries

Nick Higgins, Misty Jones and Skye Patrick

Wednesday 2-2:45 pm

Walt Disney Room

In a world where ideas, knowledge and freedom of expression are cherished, book banning has become a contentious issue that challenges these fundamental values. Join librarians **Nick Higgins**, **Misty Jones** and **Skye Patrick** for an important discussion as they delve into the complex dynamics surrounding book censorship and the crucial role libraries and librarians play in preserving the public's fundamental right to access information, services and resources that preserve our intellectual freedom.



The Many Voices of Julia Whelan: The Adele of Audiobooks

Julia Whelan with Justice Douglas Miller

Wednesday 2-2:45 pm

Joan Didion Room

Meet **Julia Whelan**, the “Adele of Audio Books,” as anointed by *The New Yorker* for her award-winning work as the narrator of over 400 audiobooks. Her list of books includes *Educated* by Tara Westover, *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn and books by Kristin Hannah, Taylor Jenkins Reid, Nora Roberts, Michael Crichton and Lauren Groff to name just a few. **Justice Douglas Miller** joins Whelan live and in-person to discuss the joys and challenges of being the number one audio book narrator.



Wednesday 3-3:45 pm
Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory

The Climate Crisis and the Road Ahead

David Wallace-Wells with Douglas Brinkley

Wednesday 3-3:45 pm

Jack London Room

The climate crisis is too vast and complicated to solve with a silver bullet, says author **David Wallace-Wells**. What we need is a shift in how we live. Join him in conversation with **Douglas Brinkley** as he lays out some of the dramatic actions we can take to build a livable, prosperous world in the age of global warming. Wallace-Wells is the bestselling author of *The Uninhabitable Earth* and *New York Times* essayist who explores climate change, technology, the future of the planet and how we live on it.

The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

This session will be simulcast in

the Outdoor Pavilion for Readers



Francis Ford Coppola 1975 (photo: Getty Images), Jane Fonda 1979 (photo: ABC Photo Archives), Michael Douglas 1988 (photo: msn.com), Halle Berry 2002 (photo: Getty Images)

Oh What a Night!
50 Oscar Nights

Dave Karger

Wednesday 3-3:45 pm

John Steinbeck Room

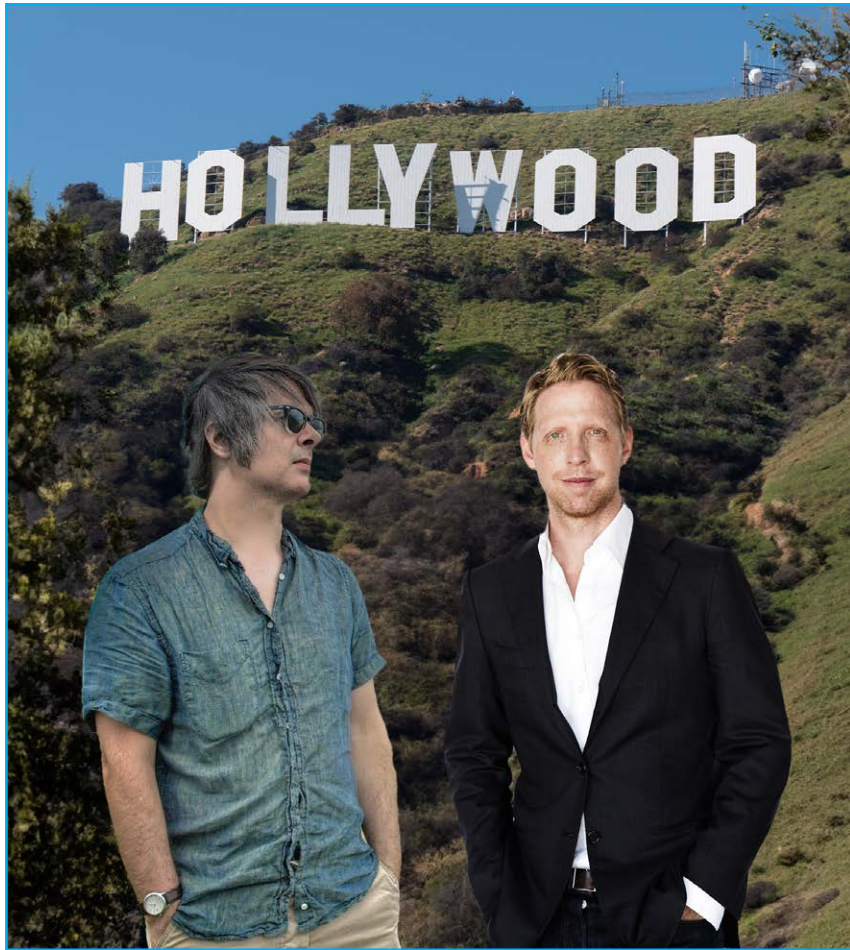
Turner Classic Movies host **Dave Karger**, author of *50 Oscar Nights*, shares some brand-new interviews with 50 Academy Award winners about the day they won their Oscars: how they prepared, what they said (and wore), how they celebrated and what the award means to them today. Interview subjects include Nicole Kidman, Steven Spielberg, Elton John, Julia Roberts, John Legend, Rita Moreno, Jane Fonda, Whoopi Goldberg and Michael Douglas.

Hollywood Dreams: The Enduring Allure of Tinseltown

Mark Rozzo and Matt Tyrnauer

Wednesday 3-3:45 pm

Walt Disney Room



Rozzo photo: Sam Erickson for *Vanity Fair*/Tyrnauer photo: Tyler William Parker

Documentary filmmaker **Matt Tyrnauer** and journalist **Mark Rozzo** delve into Hollywood's enigmatic allure. They discuss its historical significance, the celebrated characters that shape it and the enduring fascination with the glitz, glamour and intrigue that continue to define this iconic entertainment hub.

Cuba

Ada Ferrer with Dr. Elizabeth Cobbs

Wednesday 3-3:45 pm

Joan Didion Room

Pulitzer Prize-winning historian **Ada Ferrer** delivers an important and moving chronicle on the history of Cuba and its complex ties to the United States. Spanning more than five centuries, her epic tome, *Cuba: An American History*, details the evolution of the modern nation, with its dramatic record of conquest and colonization, of slavery and freedom, of independence and revolutions. Ferrer explores the surprising and often troubled intimacy between the two countries. With **Dr. Elizabeth Cobbs**.



A sign on the Miami waterfront invites Americans to visit Cuba in 1960 (photo: Graf Fotos/Getty Images)

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

The Wisdom of the Bullfrog: Lessons in Leadership

Admiral William H. McRaven and Jon Meacham

Thursday 8:30–9:15 am

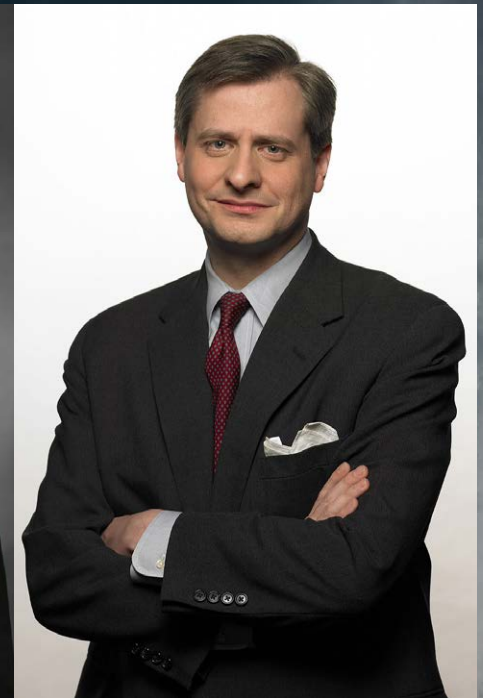
Jack London Room

The title “Bullfrog” is given to the Navy SEAL who has served the longest on active duty. **Admiral William H. McRaven** received this honor in 2011 when he took charge of the United States Special Operations Command. When McRaven retired in 2014, he had 37 years as a Navy SEAL under his belt, leading men and women at every level of the special operations community. Please join Admiral McRaven and Pulitzer Prize-winning historian **Jon Meacham** as they discuss Admiral McRaven’s clear-eyed treatise on the leadership qualities that separate the good from the truly great.

The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

This session will be simulcast in

the Outdoor Pavilion for Readers



Go Ask Ali

Ali Wentworth with Kurt Bardella

Thursday 8:30–9:15 am

John Steinbeck Room

A renowned actor, comedian and author of *The New York Times* bestseller *Ali in Wonderland*, **Ali Wentworth** was described by *The Huffington Post* as “the girlfriend you want to have a glass of wine with, the one who makes you laugh because she sees the funny and the absurd in everything.” She is joined on stage by **Kurt Bardella** for a humorous and endearing conversation about Wentworth’s fascinating life and incredible career.

“

Remember your stories. Pass them on. Particularly any salacious affairs.

— Ali Wentworth



The Bill of Obligations: The Ten Habits of Good Citizens

Dr. Richard Haass with Robert Shrum

Thursday 8:30–9:15 am

Walt Disney Room

The United States faces dangerous threats from Russia, China, North Korea, Iran, terrorists, climate change and future pandemics. The greatest peril to the country, however, comes not from abroad but from within—from none other than ourselves. **Dr. Richard Haass** argues that the very idea of citizenship must be revised and expanded. The Bill of Rights is at the center of our Constitution, yet our most intractable conflicts often emerge from contrasting views as to what our rights ought to be. Dr. Haass is joined by **Robert Shrum** to introduce his ten obligations that are essential for healing our divisions and safeguarding the country’s future.



“**We get the government and the country we deserve. Getting the one we need, however, is up to us.**”

—Dr. Richard Haass



Your Face Belongs to Us: Facial Recognition Technology and Your Privacy

Kashmir Hill

Thursday 8:30–9:15 am

Joan Didion Room

Kashmir Hill writes about the unexpected and sometimes ominous ways technology is changing our lives. She is a tech reporter at *The New York Times* and is here to discuss her new book on the dystopian future of tech—and in particular facial recognition technology, which has been quietly growing more powerful for decades—and how it threatens our privacy.

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

A Conversation with Dr. Abraham Verghese

Dr. Abraham Verghese with Dr. Khoi Le

Thursday 9:30–10:15 am

Jack London Room

Dr. Abraham Verghese, the author of the 101st Oprah's Book Club pick, *The Covenant of Water*, is also a renowned infectious disease doctor, a professor and vice chair at Stanford University, a podcast host, a TED Talk superstar and a recipient of the National Humanities Medal. His highly anticipated bestselling book follows three generations of a family spanning the years 1900 to 1977 and is set in Kerala on South India's Malabar Coast. Dr. Verghese is joined in conversation by **Dr. Khoi Le** to talk about his medical career, his second career as a writer and how the two intersect and inform each other—as well as healing, redemption and the power of human stories.

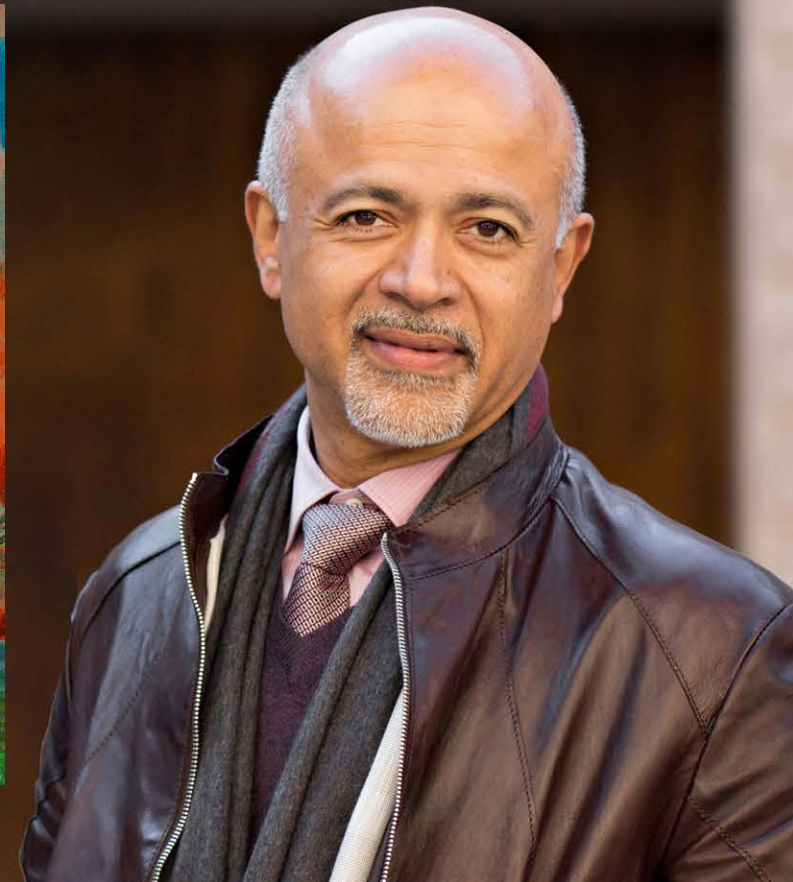
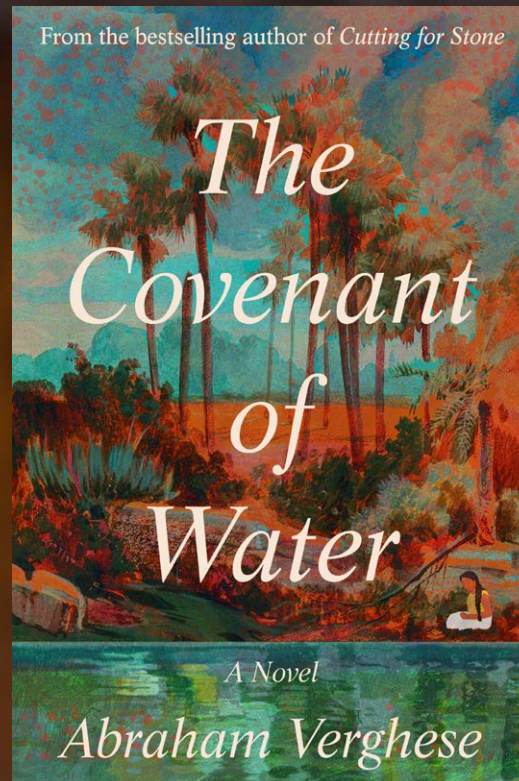
The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

This session will be simulcast in

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Top: traditional home of one of Dr. Verghese's friends. Bottom: Dr. Verghese (right) with brother (left) and family friend (center) in front of his grandparents' home in Kerala (photo: courtesy of Dr. Verghese).



U.S. Foreign Policy in the Twenty-First Century: From Bush to Biden

Douglas Brinkley and Dr. Richard Haass

Thursday 9:30-10:15 am

John Steinbeck Room

Presidential historian **Douglas Brinkley** and foreign policy analyst and **Dr. Richard Haass** delve into pivotal moments like 9/11, the Iraq War, the Arab Spring and the rise of China. They discuss how these events shaped American diplomacy and how pressing issues such as climate change, cybersecurity and nuclear proliferation challenge the current administration. Please join them as they examine U.S. foreign policy's evolution and its future implications on the global stage from the Bush years to Biden today.



Cuba 2016 (photo: Joe Raedle/Getty Images)

Cuba

Ada Ferrer with Justice Douglas Miller

Thursday 9:30-10:15 am

Walt Disney Room

Pulitzer Prize-winning historian **Ada Ferrer** delivers an important and moving chronicle on the history of Cuba and its complex ties to the United States. Spanning more than five centuries, her epic tome, *Cuba: An American History*, details the evolution of the modern nation, with its dramatic record of conquest and colonization, of slavery and freedom, of independence and revolutions. **Justice Douglas Miller** and Ferrer explore the surprising and often troubled intimacy between the two countries.

Danger on the Silver Screen

Scott McGee with Dave Karger

Thursday 9:30-10:15 am

Joan Didion Room

TCM programmer, classic film aficionado and author **Scott McGee** loves film stunts so much that it inspired him to write a book about the greatest stunts in cinema. McGee and TCM host **Dave Karger** take us back to when stuntmen were first recognized as “the anonymous heroes who fall off the palisades, or skid into the river and keep on whistling” and share some of their favorite stunts that helped make Hollywood magic on the silver screen.



Renegade: The January 6th Attack on Our Nation's Capital and the Threat to Democracy

Congressman Adam Kinzinger with Hugo Lowell

Thursday 10:30–11:15 am

Jack London Room

In the aftermath of the storming of the Capitol on January 6, 2021, **Congressman Adam Kinzinger** became one of ten House Republicans who voted to impeach President Donald Trump for his role in the January 6th attack on the U.S. Capitol. An Air Force veteran who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, he became one of two GOP members to join the January 6th Committee investigating the January 6th insurrection. **Hugo Lowell** is a political investigations reporter for *The Guardian* who has broken several high-profile stories about January 6th. Please join them as they discuss Kinzinger's life and career leading up to his role in the January 6th Committee and his new book, *Renegade: Defending Democracy and Liberty in Our Divided Country*.

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House committee investigating January 6 meets on October 19, 2021, (photo: Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post/Getty Images)



The Capitol insurrection on January 6, 2021 (photo: Blink O'Fanaye/Flickr)



The Capitol insurrection on January 6, 2021 (photo: Leah Millis/Reuters)

“ If this is not a crime, I don't know what is. If a president can incite an insurrection and not be held accountable, then really there's no limit to what a president can do or can't do.”

—Congressman Adam Kinzinger

The Problem of Nature Writing

Jonathan Franzen and David Wallace-Wells

Thursday 10:30–11:15 am

John Steinbeck Room

“Narrative nature writing, at its most effective, places a person (often the author, writing in first person) in some kind of unresolved relationship with the natural world, provides the character with unanswered questions or an unattained goal, and then deploys universally shared emotions—hope, anger, longing, frustration, embarrassment, disappointment—to engage a reader in the journey. If the writing succeeds, it does so indirectly. We can’t make a reader care about nature. All we can do is tell strong stories of people who do care, and hope that the caring is contagious.” —Jonathan Franzen

Please join novelist and ornithophile **Jonathan Franzen** in conversation with journalist **David Wallace-Wells**, known for his writing on climate change, on the problem of nature writing.

Courtroom Drama and the Movies

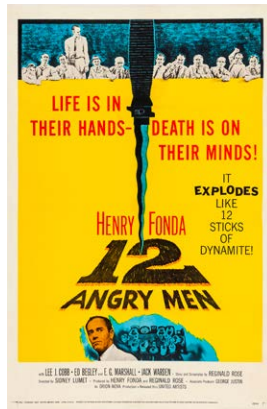
Linda Fairstein and Dave Karger with

Justice Douglas Miller (moderator)

Thursday 10:30–11:15 am

Walt Disney Room

Our panelists include a former district attorney, a Superior Court Judge and a TCM host. Join them as they share their opinions on the best crime films ever made and why. All are experts in their respective fields as well as passionate movie lovers, especially if it’s a courtroom drama.



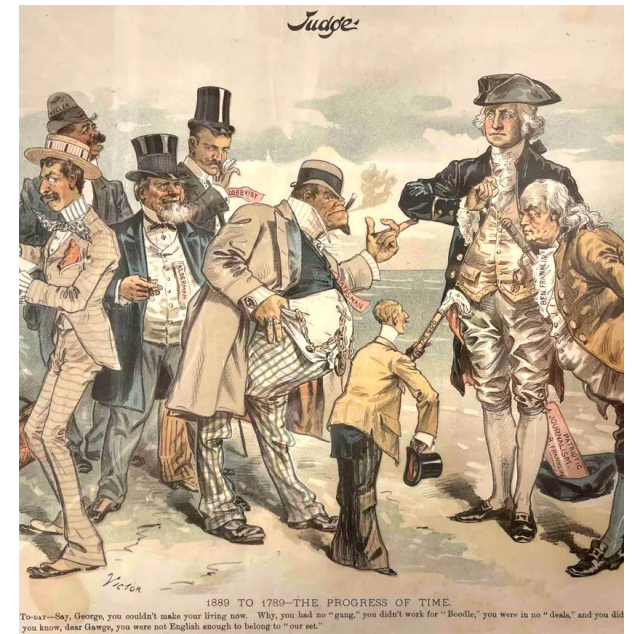
The Founding Partisans

H.W. Brands

Thursday 10:30–11:15 am

Joan Didion Room

Join bestselling historian, Pulitzer Prize finalist and RMWF Literary Lion **H.W. Brands** as he recounts the revelatory history of the shocking emergence of vicious political division at the birth of the United States. The country’s first years unfolded in a contentious spiral of ugly elections and blatant violations of the Constitution. Still, peaceful transfers of power continued, and the nascent country made its way towards global dominance, against all odds. Brands remind us that fierce partisanship is a problem as old as the republic.



1789 to 1889—The Progress of Time by Victor Gillam

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

Eyewitness to Power

David Gergen and Jon Meacham

Thursday 11:30 am–12:15 pm

Jack London Room

David Gergen has been a White House adviser to four presidents of both parties: Presidents Nixon, Ford, Reagan and Clinton. He is a professor and founding director of the Harvard Kennedy School's Center for Public Leadership and is a Senior Political Analyst at CNN. Presidential historian **Jon Meacham** joins Gergen to discuss his storied political career spanning three decades as an eyewitness to power.

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the Outdoor Pavilion for Readers



Gerald Ford and Gergen
(photo: Facebook)

Bill Clinton and Gergen
(photo: Facebook)

Ronald Reagan and Gergen
(photo: Reagan White House Photographs)



Chasten Buttigieg and Will Rollins in Conversation

Chasten Buttigieg with Will Rollins
Thursday 11:30 am-12:15 pm

John Steinbeck Room

Growing up, **Chasten Buttigieg** didn't always fit in. He felt different from his father and brothers and out of place in the rural, conservative small town where he lived. When he realized he was gay, he kept that part of himself hidden away for a long, painful time. With incredible bravery, and the support of his loved ones, Buttigieg eventually came out—and when he did, he learned that being true to himself was the most rewarding journey of all. He sits down with **Will Rollins** to talk about growing up gay in his small Midwestern town, meeting his husband Pete Buttigieg, his hope for America's future and inspiring young people across the country.



General David H. Petraeus and Julia Whelan in Conversation

General David H. Petraeus
and Julia Whelan
Thursday 11:30 am-12:15 pm

Walt Disney Room

An unlikely duo... **General David H. Petraeus**, a retired United States Army general and former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, sits down with award-winning audiobook narrator **Julia Whelan** for a wide-ranging conversation on reading, writing, journalism and the distribution of information.



Introduction to Poetry

Billy Collins with Dr. Khoi Le
Thursday 11:30 am-12:15 pm
Joan Didion Room

Introduction to Poetry

BY BILLY COLLINS

I ask them to take a poem
and hold it up to the light
like a color slide

or press an ear against its hive.
I say drop a mouse into a poem
and watch him probe his way out,
or walk inside the poem's room
and feel the walls for a light switch.

I want them to waterski
across the surface of a poem
waving at the author's name on the shore.

But all they want to do
is tie the poem to a chair with rope
and torture a confession out of it.

They begin beating it with a hose
to find out what it really means.

Dubbed “the most popular poet in America” by *The New York Times*, **Billy Collins** is famous for conversational, witty poems that welcome readers with humor but often slip into quirky, tender or profound observation on the everyday, reading and writing and poetry itself. Please join Collins and **Dr. Khoi Le** to find out why he is a two-time U.S. Poet Laureate.

LUNCH

12:15 pm: Join us outside for a delicious boxed lunch of your choice.

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

Women Talking (and Laughing)

Donna Brazile and Ali Wentworth

Thursday 1-1:45 pm

Jack London Room

Please join these two strong women—actor, comedian and *New York Times* bestselling author **Ali Wentworth** and political strategist **Donna Brazile** in a laugh-out-loud conversation. This unlikely duo will talk about their fascinating lives and careers as well as share humorous and endearing stories about family and parenting.

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This session will be simulcast in

the Outdoor Pavilion for Readers



Brazile photo: Mark J. Terrill/Wentworth photo: Heidi Gutman

Behind the Scenes at the White House

David Gergen and Reince Priebus

Thursday 1-1:45 pm

John Steinbeck Room



President Reagan meeting with David Gergen (photo: White House Photographic Collection)



Priebus looks into the Oval Office with President Trump (photo: Trump White House Archived)

Please join our distinguished guests **David Gergen** and **Reince Priebus** as they recount some of their most memorable behind the scene moments while working in the White House. Gergen was the Director of Communications in the Ford and Reagan administrations in addition to holding various positions in the Nixon and Clinton administrations. Priebus was a three-term Chair of the RNC before becoming Chief of Staff under the Trump administration.

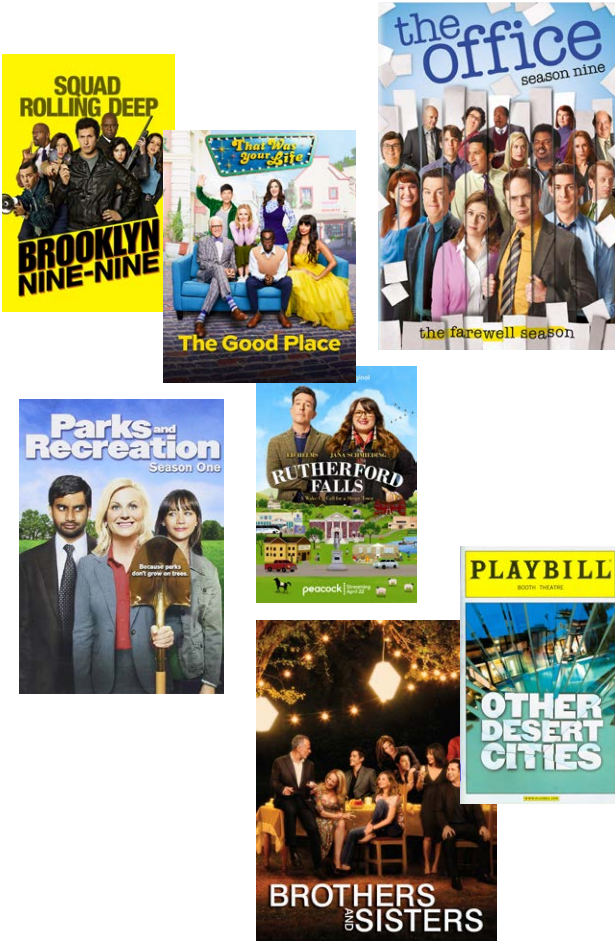
Scripting Success or How to Write a Hit TV Series

Jon “Robbie” Baitz and Michael Schur

Thursday 1-1:45 pm

Walt Disney Room

Jon “Robbie” Baitz and **Michael Schur** have created some of the most beloved characters and stories for the small screen and stage. They talk about crafting a hit TV series, from character development to plot twists, and the magic of relatable storytelling, highlighting the artistry behind captivating television.



Walking with Sam

Andrew McCarthy with Julia Whelan

Thursday 1-1:45 pm

Joan Didion Room

Actor and travel writer **Andrew McCarthy’s** bestselling book, *Walking with Sam*, recounts an emotional five-week trek through Spain with his 19-year-old son, Sam. The Camino de Santiago is a grueling 500-mile pilgrimage of medieval origin that ends at the Cathedral of Santiago in the northwest of Spain. Join McCarthy as he recounts the grueling, often difficult but ultimately bonding journey between a father and son. With **Julia Whelan**.

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

The Elephants in the Room: The GOP and the 2024 Election

Congressman Adam Kinzinger, Reince Priebus and Karl Rove with Ari Melber (moderator)

Thursday 2-2:45 pm

Jack London Room

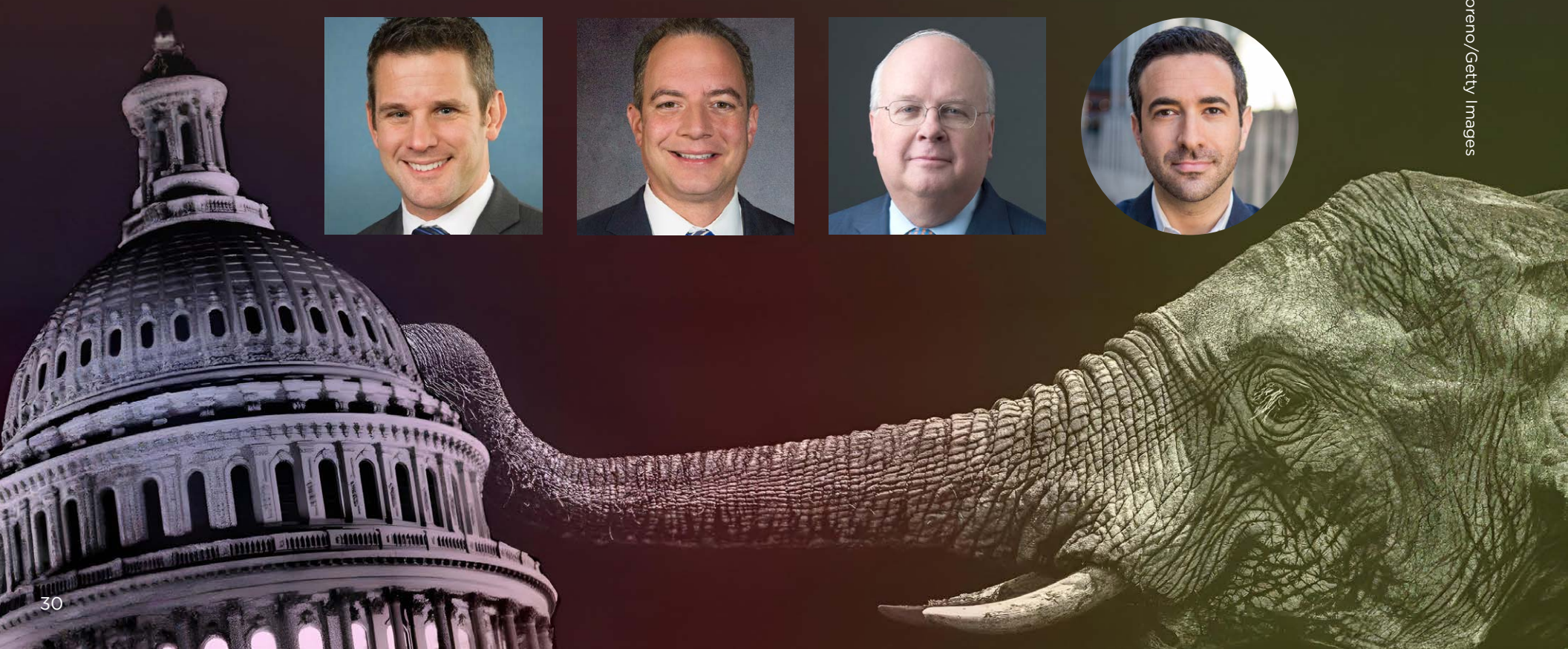
Our panel of prominent Republican figures, **Congressman Adam Kinzinger**, **Reince Priebus** and **Karl Rove**, engage in a discussion on the GOP's direction on the eve of the upcoming 2024 presidential elections. Sharing insights, they examine ideological shifts and leadership roles, compare the potential frontrunners and reflect on how Trump has inexorably changed the Republican Party. There is no doubt the GOP faces a pivotal moment as it navigates a complex political landscape in the era of Donald Trump.

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This session will be simulcast in
the Outdoor Pavilion for Readers



Image: Mario Moreno/Getty Images



Issues in U.S. Foreign Policy

Anne Applebaum, Ambassador Ivo Daalder and General David H. Petraeus with Bret Stephens (moderator)

Thursday 2-2:45 pm

John Steinbeck Room

Our panelists include foreign affairs experts **Anne Applebaum**, **Ambassador Ivo Daalder** and **General David H. Petraeus**. They examine the most pressing U.S. foreign policy issues, scrutinizing global democratic trends, transatlantic relations and military strategy. Issues will include the Ukraine/Russia conflict, China, the Middle East and the rise of authoritarianism. Their collective expertise offers an informed perspective on the complex challenges and potential solutions shaping current U.S. foreign policy. Moderated by **Bret Stephens**.



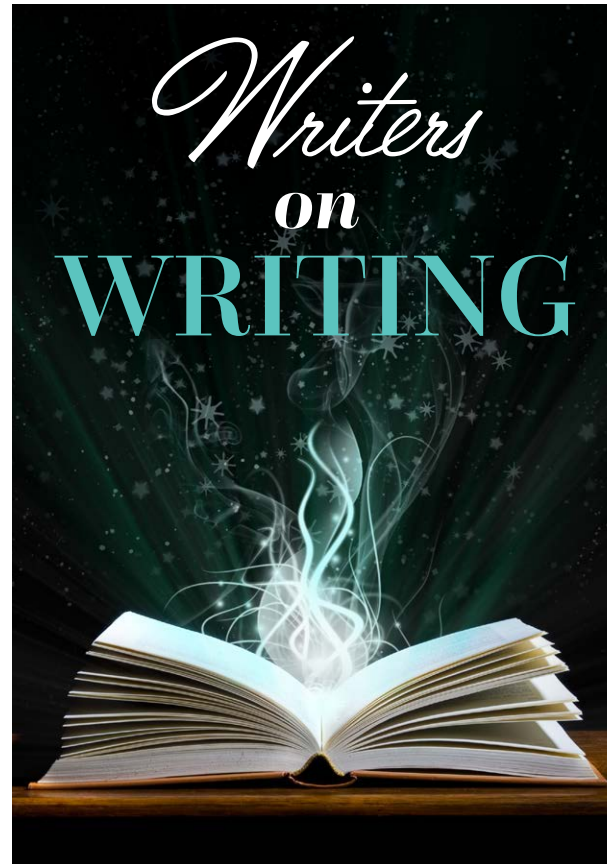
A drone flying a giant Ukrainian national flag passes over the Motherland monument during Ukraine's Independence Day on August 24, 2022, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine (photo: Dimitar Dilkoff/AFP via Getty Images)

WOW: Writers on Writing

James McBride and Dr. Abraham Verghese with Dr. Khoi Le (moderator)

Thursday 2-2:45 pm

Walt Disney Room



Please join **James McBride** and **Dr. Abraham Verghese** in a wide-ranging conversation about their writing lives, inspirations and processes. McBride is the author of the recently-released *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* and is the recipient of the 2013 National Book Award for fiction for his novel *The Good Lord Bird*. Dr. Verghese is the author of *The Covenant of Water*, his latest novel, and his previous bestselling book *Cutting for Stone*.

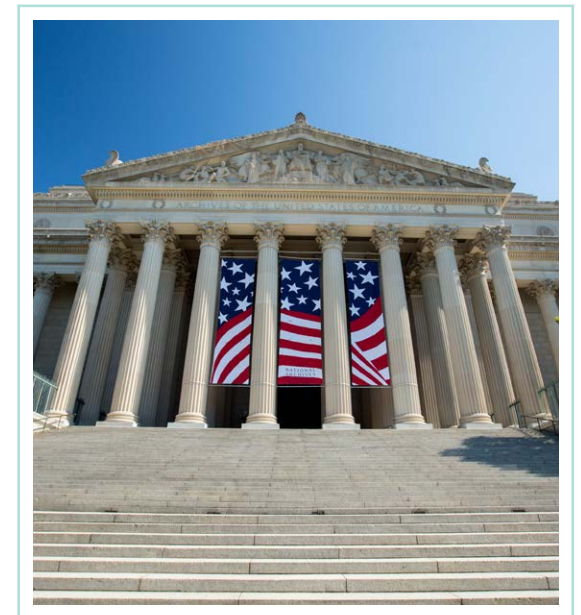
The Future of the Past

H.W. Brands and David S. Ferriero

Thursday 2-2:45 pm

Joan Didion Room

Congress established the National Archives in 1934 to preserve and care for the records of the U.S. government. Previously, federal records were kept in various basements, attics and abandoned buildings with little security or concern for storage conditions. In 1935, Archives staff and WPA workers began to survey federal records, and the next year the first batch of federal records were transferred to the new National Archives Building in Washington, D.C. Today, the National Archives has over 40 facilities nationwide. Please join former Archivist **David S. Ferriero** and historian **H.W. Brands** to learn more about what the Archivist does and why it is so vital to our democracy.



National Archives Building in Washington, D.C. (photo: Brogan Jackson)

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

Women's Wisdom from the First Black Female Billionaire

Sheila Johnson with Donna Brazile

Thursday 3-3:45 pm

Jack London Room

Philanthropist, sports franchise executive and co-founder of Black Entertainment Television **Sheila Johnson** is joined on our stage by **Donna Brazile**. Together they will talk about Johnson's rise from suburban Chicago to becoming the first Black female billionaire and how she endured her troubled marriage to fellow BET founder Robert L. Johnson. In her new autobiography, *Walk Through Fire*, Johnson tells a deeply personal portrait of how one woman, despite heartache and obstacles, finally found herself and her place in the world. Please join these two powerhouses as they discuss the importance of women in leadership roles and the challenges they continue to face from the locker room to the board room.

The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

This session will be simulcast in

the Outdoor Pavilion for Readers



“
After so many years, I'm thrilled to finally tell my story, I hope that by sharing my own experiences, I can help others going through the kinds of obstacles I faced in my life and career.

— Sheila Johnson

Donna Brazile (photo: CNN) and Sheila Johnson (photo: Drew Xeron)

The Power of Persuasion

Anand Giridharadas with Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis

Thursday 3-3:45 pm

John Steinbeck Room

The lifeblood of any free society is persuasion: changing other people's minds in order to change things. But America is suffering a crisis of faith in persuasion that is putting its democracy and the planet itself at risk. **Anand Giridharadas** is the bestselling author of *The Persuaders*, an insider account of activists, politicians, educators and everyday citizens working to change minds, bridge divisions and fight for democracy. He is joined on stage by **Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis** to talk about persuasion as a way to heal and change our fractured country.

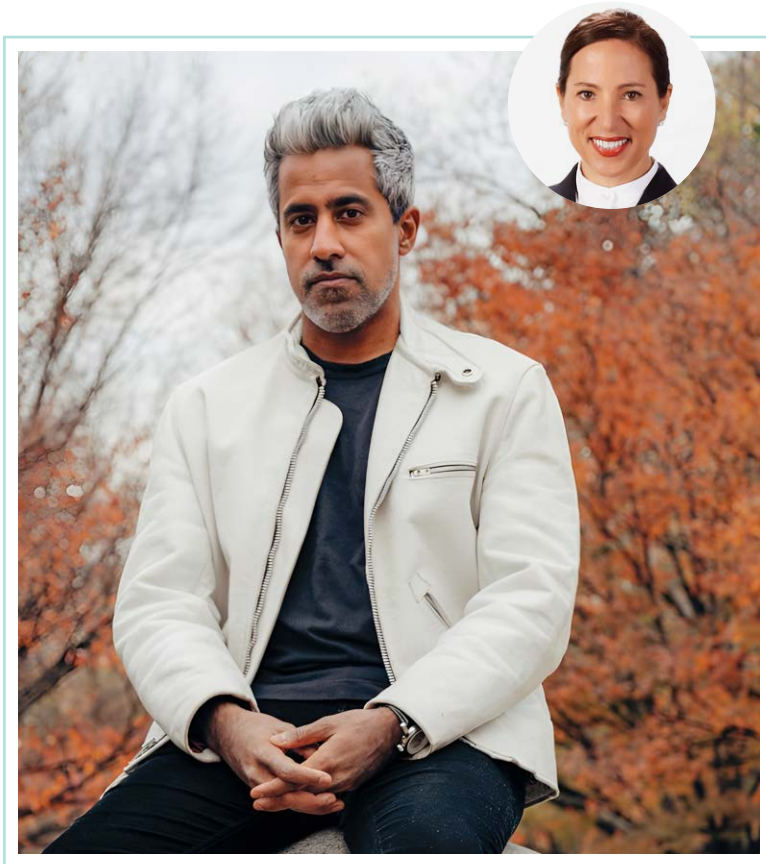


Photo: www.anand.ly

How to Be Perfect

Michael Schur

with Justice Douglas Miller

Thursday 3-3:45 pm

Walt Disney Room

Michael Schur, the creator of *The Office*, *The Good Place* and *Parks and Recreation*, starts off with easy ethical questions like *Should I punch my friend in the face for no reason?* (answer: no) and works his way up to the most complex moral issues we all face. Such as: *Can I still enjoy great art if it was created by terrible people? How much money should I give to charity? Why bother being good at all when there are no consequences for being bad?* And many more. Join Schur for a hilarious, thought-provoking conversation with **Justice Douglas Miller** on how to live an ethical life.



Schur photo: Marlene Holston

History of *The New York Times*

Adam Nagourney with Robert Shrum

Thursday 3-3:45 pm

Joan Didion Room



For over a century, *The New York Times* has been an iconic institution in American journalism, one whose history is intertwined with the events that it chronicles—a newspaper read by millions of people every day to stay informed about events that have taken place across the globe. **Adam Nagourney**, who has worked at *The New York Times* since 1996, examines four decades of the newspaper's history. Nagourney speaks with **Robert Shrum** about the paper's triumphs as well as failures that threatened the "Gray Lady's" standing and reputation.

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

Divided We Stand

Anne Applebaum and Ezra Klein

Friday 8:30–9:15 am

Jack London Room

Political debates are more intense today because conservatives and liberals are often starting from different first principles. It is harder to compromise when each side is promoting values that seem mutually exclusive. This modern-day culture war has polarized disputes over legislation, judicial nominations and speech on college campuses. Taking a step back and understanding each other's priorities is key to making progress. Please join **Anne Applebaum** and **Ezra Klein** in conversation on why we're polarized and what we can do about it.

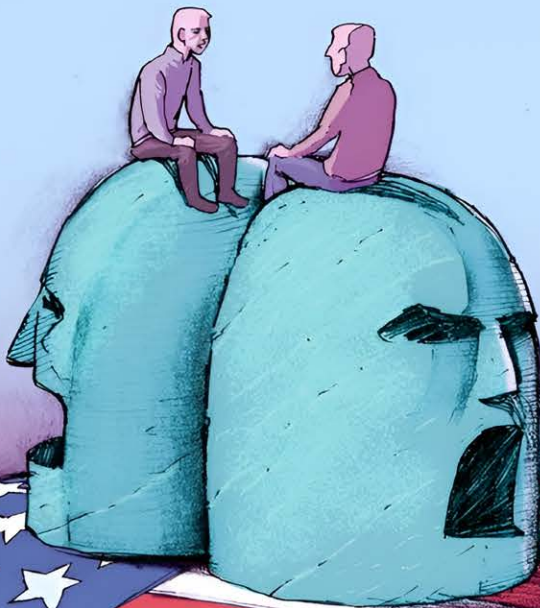
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“ The American political system—which includes everyone from voters to journalists to the president—is full of rational actors making rational decisions given the incentives they face. We are a collection of functional parts whose efforts combine into a dysfunctional whole.”

—Ezra Klein



How to Fight Antisemitism

Bret Stephens and Bari Weiss
with Emma Blankstein

Friday 8:30–9:15 am

John Steinbeck Room

Seven years ago, neo-Nazis marched from the shadows through Charlottesville, Virginia, chanting, “Jews will not replace us.” With torches in hand, they spewed the same antisemitic bile and hate that were heard across Europe in the 1930s. Antisemitic incidents in the U.S. rose 36% in 2022, according to an annual audit by the Anti-Defamation League. Our panelists discuss the events that happened all across the U.S. and the world and what we can do about it.



No Hate, No Fear solidarity march, January 2020
(photo: Erik McGregor/LightRocket/Getty Images)

Where's My Roy Cohn

Matt Tyrnauer
with Justice Douglas Miller

Friday 8:30–9:15 am

Walt Disney Room



Roy Cohn with Donald Trump (photo: Getty)

One of the most controversial and influential American men of the twentieth century, Roy Cohn was a ruthless and unscrupulous lawyer and political power broker. According to director and producer **Matt Tyrnauer**, in the modern era of corrupt politics, Roy Cohn connects the dots. His brand of politics and his amoral personal codes of conduct are what Tyrnauer's film *Where's My Roy Cohn?* is all about. Tyrnauer sits down with **Justice Douglas Miller** to discuss the making of this timely documentary.

The Boys in the Cave

Matt Gutman with Dr. Khoi Le

Friday 8:30–9:15 am

Joan Didion Room

ABC News Chief National Correspondent **Matt Gutman** recounts the dramatic story that gripped the world in June 2018 when twelve boys, ranging in age from eleven to sixteen, and their soccer coach were trapped in a flooded cave miles underground for nearly three weeks in Thailand. Gutman covered the story intensively, went deep inside the caves himself and interviewed dozens of rescuers, experts and eyewitnesses around the world. **Dr. Khoi Le** joins him to discuss the ingenuity, bravery and sacrifice it took to succeed in this heroic mission.

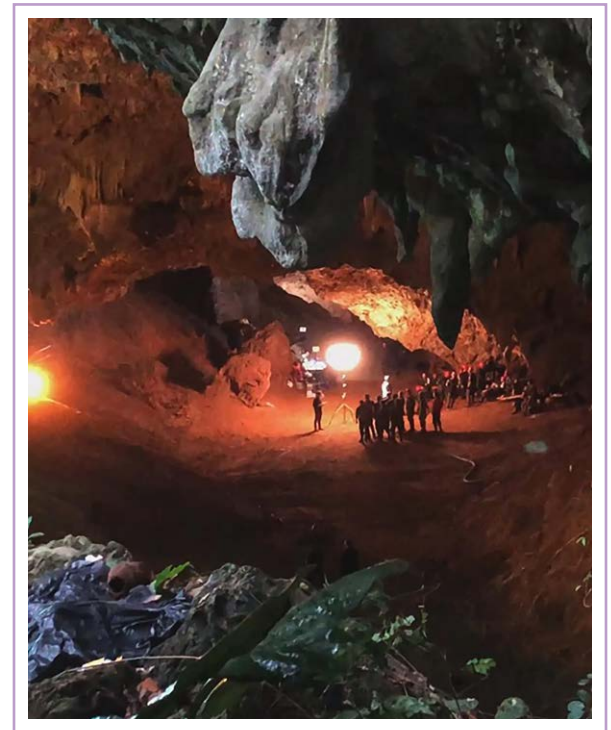


Photo: *The Rescue* 2021 documentary film of the cave rescue in Thailand

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

Enough

Cassidy Hutchinson with Margaret Hoover

Friday 9:30–10:15 am

Jack London Room

Cassidy Hutchinson is the former Trump aide and assistant to Mark Meadows who bravely came forward to become the pivotal witness in the House January 6th investigations, as her testimony transfixed and stunned the nation. Hutchinson's just-released memoir, *Enough*, describes the now 27-year-old's journey from Trump supporter to disenchantment, and her role as a key witness for the House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack. She is joined on stage by **Margaret Hoover** to share her extraordinary experience as an idealistic young woman thrust into the middle of a national crisis.

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Cassidy Hutchinson testifying on June 28 (photo: Brandon-Bell/Getty)





Franzen photo: Eyevine/Melber photo: Nathan Congleton

Jonathan Franzen and Ari Melber in Conversation

Jonathan Franzen and Ari Melber

Friday 9:30-10:15 am

John Steinbeck Room

Emmy-winning anchor of *The Beat with Ari Melber*, attorney, MSNBC's chief legal correspondent and Franzen fan **Ari Melber** sits down with award-winning novelist **Jonathan Franzen** for an open-ended and wide-ranging discussion on topics to be revealed. Please tune in for another riveting episode of "RMWF: You Saw It Here First!" where you can expect the unexpected.

“ Anything that betrays real passion is by definition uncool.” —Jonathan Franzen



High Time

Hannah Rothschild with Elizabeth Sorensen

Friday 9:30-10:15 am

Walt Disney Room

Hannah Rothschild's latest novel, *High Time*, is an outlandish comedy of morals and manners about a highborn British family of outrageous characters, the follow-up to her acclaimed books *The Improbability of Love* and *House of Trelawney*. In addition to being a writer, Rothschild was made a CBE for services to the arts and philanthropy, and in 2021, was elected to the American Academy of the Arts. She was the first female Chair of the Board of Trustees of the National Gallery in London. Rothschild is joined in conversation by **Elizabeth Sorensen** to talk about her work as a writer, documentary filmmaker, businesswoman and philanthropist.



No Time to Panic

Matt Gutman with Zoe Lukov

Friday 9:30-10:15 am

Joan Didion Room

Matt Gutman, ABC News' chief national correspondent, shares an unflinching look at panic attacks by a reporter whose career was nearly derailed by them. He tells his story about his personal quest to vanquish anxiety, providing a fascinating history of a malady that has long plagued humankind.



The Scream by Edvard Munch



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

Frank Gehry: Frank As Ever

Frank Gehry with Christopher Knight

Friday 10:30–11:15 am

Jack London Room

The designs of **Frank Gehry**—one of the most innovative architects working today—grace numerous metropolitan skylines around the world. Known for their deconstructivist approach and creative use of materials, his buildings incorporate a wealth of textures that lend a sense of movement to his dynamic structures. Gehry is regarded as the most significant North American architect of his era, and perhaps the most celebrated living architect in the world. He has buildings on almost every continent, and, at age 94, shows no sign of stopping. He still heads into the office—and swims—every day. He is joined in conversation with renowned *Los Angeles Times* Art Critic **Christopher Knight**.

The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

This session will be simulcast in

the Outdoor Pavilion for Readers



Walt Disney Concert Hall (photo: Nash Images), Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health (photo: Monster4711/Wikipedia), Guggenheim Museum Bilbao (photo: David Vives/Unsplash), Gehry at his studio (photo: Erik Carter/The New York Times)

Why We're Polarized

Anand Giridharadas
with Ezra Klein

Friday 10:30–11:15 am

John Steinbeck Room

Identity politics, divisiveness and fatalism are harming democracy. **Anand Giridharadas**, author of *The Persuaders*, joins **Ezra Klein**, author of *Why We're Polarized*, in an important and timely discussion about how to heal and change a fractured country by refusing to write others off, building more welcoming movements and rededicating ourselves to the work of changing minds.



The Queen of the Beach Read Meets the Queen of Audio Books

Elin Hilderbrand with Julia Whelan

Friday 10:30–11:15 am

Walt Disney Room

It's easy to see why **Elin Hilderbrand** is affectionately known as the “Queen of the Beach Read.” Hilderbrand’s books feature her signature blend of romance, drama and Nantucket beach life. She is retiring after her final book, *Swan Song*, is published in 2024 to pursue being a book influencer. She is joined on stage by **Julia Whelan**, the “Queen of Audio Books,” publishing’s most sought after audiobook narrator and author of *Thank You for Listening: A Novel*.



The Francis Ford Coppola Story

Sam Wasson
and Peter Bart

Friday 10:30–11:15 am

Joan Didion Room

Please join bestselling author **Sam Wasson** and **Peter Bart** as they discuss one of America’s greatest film directors, Francis Ford Coppola, and his decades-long dream to reinvent American filmmaking through his production company, American Zoetrope. Through Zoetrope’s experimental, communal utopia, Coppola has reimaged the entire pursuit of moviemaking.



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

Why the Modern Male Is Struggling, Why It Matters, and What to Do about It

Matt Gutman, Richard Reeves and Bret Stephens with Bari Weiss (moderator)

Friday 11:30 am–12:15 pm

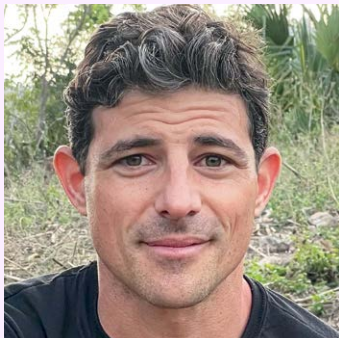
Jack London Room

Boys and men are struggling. Profound economic and social changes of recent decades have many losing ground in the classroom, the workplace and in the family. While the lives of women have changed, the lives of many men have remained the same or even worsened. Our attitudes, our institutions and our laws have failed to keep up. Conservative and progressive politicians, mired in their own ideological warfare, fail to provide thoughtful solutions. The father of three sons, a journalist and scholar, **Richard Reeves** has spent twenty-five years worrying about boys both at home and work. His new book, *Of Boys and Men*, tackles the complex and urgent crisis of boyhood and manhood. Please join Reeves in conversation with **Matt Gutman** and **Bret Stephens** as they take a deep look at the structural challenges that face boys and men that does not mean giving up on the ideal of gender equality. Moderated by **Bari Weiss**

The Jack London Room is reserved for Angel donors

This session will be simulcast in

the Outdoor Pavilion for Readers



And the Oscar Goes to ...

Peter Bart, Albert Berger, Dave Karger
and Scott McGee

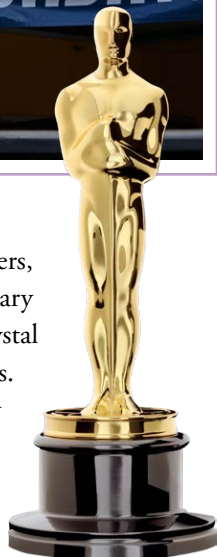
Friday 11:30 am–12:15 pm

John Steinbeck Room



Photo: Mark Makela Getty Images)

Our panelists of Hollywood insiders, seasoned screenwriters and visionary showrunners delve into their crystal balls to predict 2024 Oscar winners. Amid fervent anticipation, they scrutinize potential frontrunners for best picture, actors and directors. Place your bets now!



Slavery, Rights and the American Revolution

Edward Larson
with Justice Douglas Miller

Friday 11:30 am–12:15 pm

Walt Disney Room

Pulitzer Prize–winning historian **Edward Larson's** new book, *American Inheritance*, is an authoritative contribution to the dismal history of race in America. Larson recasts the narrative of the nation's founding by focusing on vociferous debates about liberty that erupted during three crucial decades of revolutionary fervor. As Larson argues, liberty, slavery and racism— an essential element of slavery—have always been entwined. He is joined by **Justice Douglas Miller** to discuss how the American Revolution twin strands of liberty and slavery were joined in the nation's founding.



The Old Plantation (1785) American folk art watercolor painting

“ The role of liberty and slavery in the American Revolution is a partisan minefield.” —Edward Larson

Fearless Women: Feminist Patriots from Abigail Adams to Beyoncé

Dr. Elizabeth Cobbs with Dr. Khoi Le

Friday 11:30 am–12:15 pm

Joan Didion Room

Historian **Dr. Elizabeth Cobbs** shares the empowering story of the women who dared to take destiny into their own hands. They were feminists and antifeminists, activists and homemakers, victims of abuse and pathbreaking professionals. Inspired by the nation's ideals and fueled by an unshakeable sense of right and wrong, they wouldn't take no for an answer. In time, they carried the country with them.



RMWF 2024 WRITERS



Anne Applebaum is a staff writer for *The Atlantic* and a Pulitzer-prize winning historian. She is also a senior fellow at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and the Agora Institute, where she co-directs Arena, a program on disinformation and twenty-first century propaganda. She is the author of *Gulag: A History*, which won the Pulitzer Prize for nonfiction in 2004 and was a National Book Award finalist. Her latest book is *The Twilight of Democracy: The Seductive Lure of Authoritarianism*.

Thursday 2 pm • Friday 8:30 am



John Avlon is an author, columnist and commentator. He is a senior political analyst and fill-in anchor at CNN. From 2013 to 2018, he was the editor-in-chief and managing director of *The Daily Beast*. He is the author of *Lincoln and the Fight for Peace*, *Independent Nation*, *Wingnuts*, and *Washington's Farewell*. Previously Avlon served as chief speechwriter to New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

Wednesday 9:30 am and 2 pm



Jon "Robbie" Baitz is an American playwright, screenwriter and television producer. He is a two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist, as well as a Guggenheim, American Academy of Arts and Letters and National Endowment for the Arts Fellow. He is the creator and writer of the hit TV series *Brothers & Sisters* and the play *Other Desert Cities*, and he has written for *The West Wing* among other shows.

Wednesday 2 pm • Thursday 1 pm



Kurt Bardella is an American political commentator and journalist. He is a contributor to MSNBC's *Morning Joe* and the creator and publisher of the country music industry publication *Morning Hangover*. Bardella served as a Republican congressional staffer, as well as spokesman for *Breitbart News*. In 2017, he publicly defected from the Republican Party and became a Democrat.

**Wednesday 8:30 am and 9:30 am
Thursday 8:30 am**



H.W. Brands is the Jack S. Blanton Sr. Chair in History at the University of Texas at Austin, the author of 30 books on U.S. history and a two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist. His newest book is *Founding Partisans: Hamilton, Madison, Jefferson, Adams and the Brawling Birth of American Politics*.

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



Donna Brazile is a veteran political strategist, Senior Advisor at Purple Strategies, *New York Times* bestselling author, Chair of the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board and Emmy and Peabody Award-winning media contributor. She is author of the 2004 bestselling memoir *Cooking with Grease: Stirring the Pots in American Politics* and the 2017 *New York Times* bestseller *Hacks* and co-author of *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Politics*. She serves as an adjunct professor at Howard University and as a fellow at the Institute of Politics at Harvard Kennedy School.

Thursday 1 pm and 3 pm



Douglas Brinkley is the Katherine Tsanoff Brown Chair in Humanities and Professor of History at Rice University, presidential historian for the New-York Historical Society, trustee of the National Archives Foundation and contributing editor of *Vanity Fair*. He is the author of numerous *New York Times* bestselling books on U.S. presidents, American history and popular culture. His latest book is *Silent Spring Revolution: John F. Kennedy, Rachel Carson, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, and the Great Environmental Awakening*.

**Wednesday 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 11:30 am and 3 pm
Thursday 9:30 am**



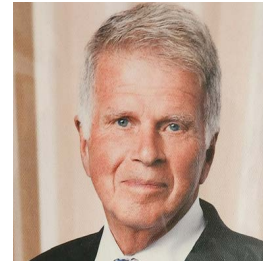
Chasten Buttigieg is a teacher, bestselling author and LGBTQ+ rights advocate. The husband of former mayor and presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg, he has become a popular figure in his own right. As his husband launched a campaign that made him one of the most talked-about Democrats in the 2020 race, Buttigieg leveraged his own platform to bring attention to improving public schools, access to arts education and mental healthcare. He is the author of *I Have Something to Tell You* about his journey to finding acceptance as a gay man.

Thursday 11:30 am



Dr. Elizabeth Cobbs is an historian, novelist, documentary filmmaker and the author of four books on American history. Her novel *Broken Promises: A Novel of the Civil War* won the San Diego Book Award. She holds the Glasscock Chair at Texas A&M and a Research Fellowship at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. Her newest book is *Fearless Women: Feminist Patriots from Abigail Adams to Beyoncé*.

Wednesday 3 pm • Friday 11:30 am



David Ferriero was the tenth Archivist of the United States. A highly respected and celebrated library leader, Ferriero was appointed by President Barack Obama and served as Archivist since November 6, 2009, presiding over one of the most consequential periods in the institution's history. In his 12 years leading the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Ferriero oversaw the transformation of NARA into a leader in the government's transition to a digital future and electronic records management.

Wednesday 10:30 am • Friday 11:30 am



Billy Collins is a poet whose uncommonly accessible verse—characterized by plain language, gentle humor and an alert appreciation for the mundane—made him one of the most popular poets in the U.S. He is the author of twelve collections of poetry. A former Distinguished Professor at Lehman College of the City University of New York, Collins served as Poet Laureate of the United States from 2001 to 2003 and as New York State Poet from 2004 to 2006. In 2016 he was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Wednesday 1 pm • Thursday 11:30 am



Jonathan Franzen is the award-winning author of six novels and five works of nonfiction and a frequent essayist. His 2001 novel, *The Corrections*, a sprawling, satirical family drama, drew widespread critical acclaim and was the winner of the National Book Award and a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. Franzen's latest novel, *Crossroads*, was published in 2021 and is the first volume in a trilogy titled *A Key to All Mythologies*.

Thursday 10:30 am • Friday 9:30 am



Ambassador Ivo Daalder is President of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and host of *World Review with Ivo Daalder*. He served as the U.S. ambassador to NATO from 2009 to 2013. He is the author and editor of 10 books, including *The Empty Throne: America's Abdication of Global Leadership*. Prior to his appointment as Ambassador to NATO by President Obama, Daalder was a senior fellow in foreign policy studies at the Brookings Institution, specializing in American foreign policy, European security, transatlantic relations and national security affairs.

Thursday 2 pm



Frank Gehry is one of the most innovative architects working today, and his buildings grace numerous metropolitan skylines around the world. Among Gehry's most celebrated buildings are the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, Walt Disney Concert Hall and Facebook HQ. Gehry has received numerous awards and honors, including the Pritzker Architecture Prize; Wolf Prize in Arts; U.S. National Medal of Arts; Gold Medal, American Institute of Architects; Royal Gold Medal, Royal Institute of British Architects; Lifetime Achievement Award, Americans for the Arts; Henry C. Turner Prize for Innovation in Construction Technology; and U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Friday 10:30 am



Ada Ferrer is the Julius Silver Professor of History and Latin American and Caribbean Studies at New York University, where she has taught since 1995. Her Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *Cuba: An American History*, is a sweeping history of more than five hundred years of Cuban history, based on more than thirty years of travel to and research on the island.

Wednesday 3 pm • Thursday 9:30 am



David Gergen has been a leader in the public arena for more than half a century. He has served as a White House adviser to four U.S. presidents of both parties: Nixon, Ford, Reagan and Clinton. Gergen then served as the editor of *U.S. News & World Report*. For the past two decades, he has served as a professor of public service and founding director of the Center for Public Leadership at the Harvard Kennedy School. He is also a senior political analyst for CNN where he is a respected voice in national and international affairs. He is the author of *Hearts Touched With Fire: How Great Leaders Are Made*.

Thursday 11:30 am and 1 pm



Anand Girdharadas is a bestselling author, journalist and political pundit. A former foreign correspondent and columnist for *The New York Times*, he has written for *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic* and *TIME*, and he is the publisher of the newsletter *The Ink*. He is the author of *The Persuaders: At the Front Lines of the Fight for Hearts, Minds, and Democracy*; *Winners Take All: The Elite Charade of Changing the World*; *The True American: Murder and Mercy in Texas*; and *India Calling: An Intimate Portrait of a Nation's Remaking*. He is a regular on-air political analyst for MSNBC.

Thursday 3 pm • Friday 10:30 am



Doris Kearns Goodwin is the world-renowned, Pulitzer Prize-winning and number one *New York Times* bestselling author of numerous books on American history. Her latest book, *Leadership in Turbulent Times*, was the inspiration for the two-part series *Theodore Roosevelt* and three-part epic documentary event *Abraham Lincoln*, which she produced for the History Channel. She is executive producer of *FDR*, a three-part documentary on the History Channel, also based on *Leadership in Turbulent Times*.

Wednesday 10:30 am and 2 pm



Dr. Michael Greger M.D. FACLM is a physician, *New York Times* bestselling author and internationally recognized professional speaker on a number of important public health issues. He is the author of numerous books including *How Not to Die*, *The How Not to Die Cookbook*, *How Not to Diet* and *How to Survive a Pandemic*. His latest book is *How Not to Age: The Scientific Approach to Getting Healthier as You Get Older*.

Wednesday 8:30 am and 1 pm



Matt Gutman is ABC News' chief national correspondent. A multi-award-winning reporter, Gutman contributes regularly to *World News Tonight with David Muir*, *20/20*, *Good Morning America*, and *Nightline*. He has reported from fifty countries across the globe and is the author of *The Boys in the Cave: Deep Inside the Impossible Rescue in Thailand* and his latest book, *No Time To Panic*.

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



Dr. Richard Haass, a veteran diplomat and respected scholar of international relations, is president emeritus of the Council on Foreign Relations after having served as CFR's president for 20 years. He is also senior counselor with Centerview Partners, an international investment banking advisory firm. He was director of policy planning for the Department of State from 2001 to 2003 and from 1989 to 1993 was a special assistant to President George H.W. Bush. Dr. Haass is the author or editor of fourteen books on American foreign policy, management and American democracy. His latest book, *The Bill of Obligations: The Ten Habits of Good Citizens*, became a *New York Times* bestseller.

Thursday 8:30 am and 9:30 am



Elin Hilderbrand is a *New York Times* bestselling author of 28 novels mostly set on and around Nantucket Island where she lives. She is affectionately known as the "queen of the beach read." Her latest book is *The Five-Star Weekend*. Hilderbrand will retire with her summer of 2024 book and plans on becoming a book influencer. She has a large and loyal following for her Instagram account, where she recommends her favorite books.

Friday 10:30 am



Kashmir Hill is a journalist at *The New York Times* writing about the looming tech dystopia and how we can avoid it. She was previously an investigative reporter at Gizmodo Media Group, focusing on privacy and technology. She specializes in first-person reporting and has previously lived on Bitcoin, worked as an invisible girlfriend and purchased a sterling online reputation for a fake business. She is the author of *Your Face Belongs to Us: A Secretive Startup's Quest to End Privacy As We Know It*.

Wednesday 11:30 am • Thursday 8:30 am



Margaret Hoover is a conservative political commentator, political strategist, author, feminist, gay rights activist and great-granddaughter of Herbert Hoover, the 31st U.S. president. Currently, she works as a political commentator for CNN and is the host of *Firing Line with Margaret Hoover* on PBS, a relaunch of *National Review* founder William F. Buckley Jr.'s public-affairs television show, *Firing Line*. She is the author of *American Individualism: How a New Generation of Conservatives Can Save the Republican Party*.

Wednesday 2 pm • Friday 9:30 am



Cassidy Hutchinson is a former special assistant to President Donald Trump and his chief of staff, Mark Meadows. She received national attention after being a key witness in the hearings led by the United States House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol. Hutchinson previously worked for the White House Office of Legislative Affairs and interned for Republican leaders Steve Scalise and Ted Cruz. She is the author of *Enough*.

Friday 9:30 am



Ezra Klein is a columnist at *The New York Times*, where he hosts *The Ezra Klein Show* podcast. Previously, he was the co-founder, editor-in-chief and then editor-at-large at *Vox*; a columnist and editor at *The Washington Post*; a political analyst at MSNBC; and a contributor to *Bloomberg*. He is the author of *Why We're Polarized*, a *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* bestseller. He has written for *The New Yorker* and *The New York Review of Books* and has appeared on *Face the Nation*, *The Daily Show*, *PBS NewsHour* and many more.

Friday 8:30 am and 10:30 am



Sheila Johnson has long been a powerful influence in the entertainment industry, starting with her work as co-founder of Black Entertainment Television (BET), which she sold, making her the first female African American billionaire. For her second act, she served as vice chairman of Monumental Sports & Entertainment and is the only African American woman to have ownership in three professional sports teams. Her third act is Founder and CEO of Salamander Hotels & Resorts, a collection of luxury properties centered around unique destinations in the U.S. and the Caribbean. Her new memoir is *Walk Through Fire: A Memoir of Love, Loss, and Triumph*.

Thursday 3 pm



Christopher Knight has been the art critic at the *Los Angeles Times* for almost four decades. Over his long career, he has done much to chronicle and hold to account the art institutions of Los Angeles. Knight is known as much for his encyclopedic knowledge of Los Angeles' art history as for his harsh critiques of the uncomfortable intersections of the commercial and nonprofit worlds. In 2020, he was awarded the Rabkin Lifetime Achievement Award for art journalism and the Pulitzer Prize for criticism.

Friday 10:30 am



Dave Karger is a host on Turner Classic Movies. He has also made over 200 live appearances on NBC's *Today* as an entertainment commentator. He began his career with a 17-year stint as a writer at *Entertainment Weekly*, where he wrote over 50 cover stories for the magazine. He also served as the Academy's official red-carpet greeter on Oscar night, only the third person ever to hold that post. In 2015, Karger was the recipient of the Publicists Guild's Press Award, honoring the year's outstanding entertainment journalist. His new book is *50 Oscar Nights: Iconic Stars & Filmmakers on Their Career-Defining Wins*.

Wednesday 3 pm • Thursday 9:30 am and 10:30 am

Friday 11:30 am



Edward Larson is the author of seven books and the recipient of the 1998 Pulitzer Prize in history for his book *Summer for the Gods: The Scopes Trial and America's Continuing Debate Over Science and Religion*. Larson has also written over one hundred articles, most of which address topics of law, science or politics from an historical perspective, which have appeared in such varied journals as *The Atlantic*, *Nature*, *Scientific American*, *The Nation*, *The Wilson Quarterly* and *Virginia Law Review*. He is a professor of history and law at Pepperdine University and lives in Georgia and California.

Friday 11:30 am



Congressman Adam Kinzinger is a former U.S. Representative from Illinois from 2011–2023 and senior political commentator for CNN. A member of the Republican Party, Kinzinger represented Illinois' 11th and later 16th congressional districts. He is a lieutenant colonel in the Air National Guard. He was one of the ten Republicans who voted to impeach Trump and one of only two Republicans to vote to create a select committee to investigate the 2021 United States Capitol attack. He also served on the committee. His new book is *Renegade: Defending Democracy and Liberty in Our Divided Country*.

Thursday 10:30 am and 2 pm



Hugo Lowell is a British-American political investigations reporter for *The Guardian* assigned to cover former President Donald Trump and the Department of Justice. He previously reported on the House January 6th Select Committee investigation as a congressional reporter for the newspaper. He has broken a number of high-profile stories, which won him the 2022 National Press Club's Sandy Hume Memorial Award for Excellence in political journalism. He regularly appears as a political analyst on MSNBC, *PBS NewsHour*, *PBS Washington Week*, CBS News and BBC World News.

Wednesday 9:30 am • Thursday 10:30 am



James McBride is an award-winning author, musician and screenwriter. His landmark memoir, *The Color of Water*, has sold millions of copies and spent more than two years on the *New York Times* bestseller list. His 2013 novel, *The Good Lord Bird*, won the National Book Award for fiction. McBride has been a staff writer for *The Boston Globe*, *People* magazine and *The Washington Post*, and his work has appeared in *Essence*, *Rolling Stone* and *The New York Times*. His latest book is *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*.

Wednesday 11:30 am • Thursday 2 pm



Andrew McCarthy is the author of four *New York Times* bestsellers, including his latest, *Walking with Sam*. For a dozen years he was an editor-at-large for *National Geographic Traveler* magazine. He has been named travel journalist of the year by the Society of American Travel writers and served as guest editor of the *Best American Travel* anthology. He has directed nearly 100 hours of television and as an actor appeared in dozens of films, including such iconic 80s fare as *Pretty in Pink* and *Less Than Zero*.

Wednesday 9:30 am • Thursday 1 pm



Scott McGee is a senior director of original productions at Turner Classic Movies (TCM). He is also a programmer for TCM's annual film festival and the lead programmer for the TCM Classic Cruise, and has been a presenter at many of TCM's past festivals and other industry conventions. He is the author of *Danger on the Silver Screen*, an action-packed journey through the history of cinema stunt work.

Wednesday 10:30 am and 1 pm

Thursday 9:30 am • Friday 11:30 am



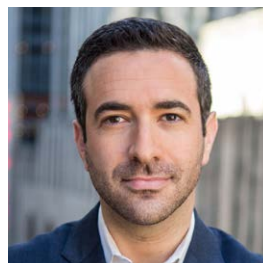
Admiral William McRaven is a retired U.S. Navy four-star admiral and the former chancellor of the University of Texas System. During his time in the military, he commanded special operations forces at every level, eventually taking charge of the U.S. Special Operations Command. He is the author of several books on leadership including his popular and inspirational book *Make Your Bed: Little Things That Can Change Your Life... And Maybe the World*. His latest book is *The Wisdom of The Bullfrog: Leadership Made Simple (But Not Easy)*.

Wednesday 10:30 am • Thursday 8:30 am



Jon Meacham is a Pulitzer Prize-winning presidential historian, contributing writer to *The New York Times Book Review* and contributing editor at *TIME*. His latest book, *And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle*, was published in October 2022.

Wednesday 1 pm • Thursday 8:30 and 11:30 am



Ari Melber is an Emmy Award-winning journalist, evening news anchor, writer and attorney. He anchors *The Beat with Ari Melber* on MSNBC, serves as the network's chief legal Correspondent and is a legal analyst for NBC News. Melber received a 2016 Emmy Award for his reporting on the Supreme Court, and was nominated for a 2020 Emmy for an "Outstanding Live Interview," featuring four witnesses in the Mueller probe. He has been published in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *Politico* and other publications. He previously practiced First Amendment law and is a member of the New York Bar.

Thursday 2 pm • Friday 9:30 am



Adam Nagourney is a national political reporter covering the 2024 presidential race for *The New York Times*. He was previously the Los Angeles bureau chief and served eight years as the chief national political correspondent. His latest book *The Times: How the Newspaper of Record Survived Scandal, Scorn, and the Transformation of Journalism*, is a sweeping behind-the-scenes look at the last four turbulent decades of "the paper of record," *The New York Times*.

Wednesday 8:30 am and 9:30 am • Thursday 3 pm



Valerie Biden Owens is the first woman in U.S. history to have run a presidential campaign—that of her brother, Joseph R. Biden, Jr. She also led his seven straight U.S. Senate victories and has been his principal surrogate on the campaign trail. She is chair of the Biden Institute at the University of Delaware and a partner at Owens Patrick Leadership Seminars. Owens sits on the Advisory Board of the Beau Biden Foundation for the Protection of Children. She is the author of *Growing Up Biden*, her memoir about her decades-long professional career in politics and the central role she played in her brother's life.

Wednesday 9:30 am and 1 pm



General David Petraeus is a retired United States Army four-star general who is now a partner with the global investment firm KKR, Chairman of the KKR Global Institute and the Kissinger Fellow at Yale's Jackson School. He served over 37 years in the U.S. Army, culminating his career with six consecutive commands as a general officer, five of which were in combat, including Command of the Surge in Iraq, U.S. Central Command and NATO/U.S. Forces in Afghanistan. He is the co-author of *Conflict: The Evolution of Warfare from 1945 to Ukraine*.

**Tuesday 7 pm • Wednesday 10:30 am
Thursday 11:30 am and 2 pm**



Karl Rove is a political strategist who formerly served as a senior advisor to President George W. Bush from 2000 to 2007 and was his Deputy Chief of Staff from 2004 to 2007. 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* and *Courage and Consequence*.

Wednesday 11:30 am • Thursday 2 pm



Reince Priebus was the former White House Chief of Staff for Donald Trump. Previously, he was the longest-serving chairman of the Republican National Committee in modern history. During his prior tenure as chairman of the Republican Party of Wisconsin, Priebus created the framework for one of the most historic election cycles. He is a regular political commentator for major news channels and is an officer in the U.S. Navy Reserves. Prior to his role at CBS News, he served as a visiting Fellow at Institute of Politics at Harvard Kennedy School.

Thursday 1 pm and 2 pm



Mark Rozzo is a contributing editor at *Vanity Fair*. He has also written for the *Los Angeles Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Esquire*, *Vogue*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Oxford American*, *The Washington Post* and many others. He teaches nonfiction writing at Columbia University. *Everybody Thought We Were Crazy: Dennis Hopper, Brooke Hayward and 1960s Los Angeles* is his first book.

Wednesday 11:30 am, 1 pm and 3 pm



Richard Reeves is president of the American Institute for Boys and Men, an organization with a mission to raise awareness of the problems of boys and men and advocate for effective solutions. His research focuses on boys and men, inequality and social mobility. His latest book is *Of Boys and Men: Why the Modern Male Is Struggling, Why It Matters, and What to Do about It*. He is a contributor to *The Atlantic*, *National Affairs*, *Democracy Journal*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*.

Wednesday 8:30 am • Friday 11:30 am



Richard V. Sandler is executive vice president of the Milken Family Foundation and a partner in the law offices of Maron & Sandler, specializing in business restructurings and acquisitions, securities transactions and real estate. Sandler is a past chair of the Jewish Federations of North America and the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, current chair of Milken Community School; and serves on the boards of the Jewish Agency, Jewish Federations of North America, the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles and the Milken Institute.

Wednesday 8:30 am



Hannah Rothschild CBE is a British writer, documentary filmmaker, businesswoman and philanthropist. Her features and interviews appear in *The Telegraph*, *The Times* (London), *The New York Times* and *Vogue*. Her documentaries have been shown on the BBC, HBO and at international film festivals. From August 2015 to October 2019 she was the first female chair of the board of trustees of the National Gallery in London. Her latest novel is *High Time*.

Friday 9:30 am



Michael Schur is a television series creator, writer and producer. He is best recognized for his work on the series *The Office* and *Parks and Recreation*. He is also known for creating NBC's comedy series *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, as well as *The Good Place*. He writes for firejoemorgan.com, a sports journalism criticism blog, under the pen name Ken Tremendous. As an actor, Schur has appeared in *The Office* and in the television movie *Totally Awesome*. He is the author of *How to Be Perfect: The Correct Answer to Every Moral Question*.

Thursday 1 pm and 3 pm



Lesley Stahl is one of America's most honored and experienced broadcast journalists. Her rich career has been marked by political scoops, investigations, surprising features and award-winning foreign reporting—a body of work that won her the Lifetime Achievement Emmy in 2003 for overall excellence in reporting. She began her 32nd season on *60 Minutes* in September 2023, having joined the broadcast as a correspondent in March 1991. She is the author of two bestselling books: *Reporting Live*, about her work as a White House correspondent, and the more recent *Becoming Grandma*.

Tuesday 7 pm • Wednesday 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 was deputy editorial page editor for *The Wall Street Journal* and a foreign affairs columnist. He is the author of *America in Retreat: The New Isolationism and the Coming Global Disorder*. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for commentary.

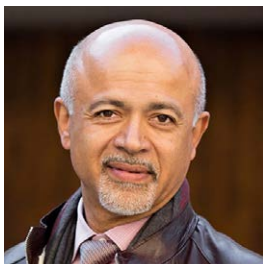
Wednesday 10:30 am and 2 pm • Thursday 2 pm

Friday 8:30 am and 11:30 am



Matt Tyrnauer is an award-winning writer, journalist and director whose films include *Valentino: The Last Emperor*, which was short-listed for an Academy Award for best documentary feature; *Where's My Roy Cohn?*, *Studio 54*, *Scotty and the Secret History of Hollywood* and *Citizen Jane: Battle for the City*. His latest projects include *The Reagans*, a four-part documentary series for Showtime. As a journalist, Tyrnauer has written for *Vanity Fair*, *The New York Times*, *Architectural Digest* and *L'Uomo Vogue*.

Wednesday 11:30 am and 3 pm • Friday 8:30 am



Dr. Abraham Verghese MD, MACP, is a professor and Linda R. Meier and Joan F. Lane Provostial Professor and vice chair for the theory and practice of medicine at the School of Medicine at Stanford University. He is also a bestselling author and a physician with a reputation for his focus on healing in an era where technology often overwhelms the human side of medicine. He received the Heinz Award in 2014 and was awarded the National Humanities Medal in 2015, presented by President Barack Obama. He is the author of four books. His latest novel is *The Covenant of Water*.

Thursday 9:30 am and 2 pm



David Wallace-Wells is an opinion writer for *The New York Times*—a bestselling science writer and essayist who explores climate change, technology, the future of the planet and how we live on it. He is also an editor-at-large for *New York Magazine* covering the climate crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. He is the author *The Uninhabitable Earth*.

Wednesday 3 pm • Thursday 10:30 am



Sam Wasson is the author of six previous books on Hollywood including *New York Times* bestsellers *Fifth Avenue*, *Five A.M.: Audrey Hepburn, Breakfast at Tiffany's, and the Dawn of the Modern American Woman*; *The Big Goodbye: Chinatown and the Last Days of Hollywood*; and *Fosse*, the basis for the limited series *Fosse/Verdon*. With Jeanine Basinger, he is co-author of *Hollywood: The Oral History*.

Wednesday 10:30 am and 2 pm • Friday 10:30 am



John Waters is a filmmaker, visual artist and writer. Born in Baltimore, MD, Waters began the rise to prominence and gained a cult following in the 1970s, with his audacious, so-called “trash films.” Some of Waters' best-known films, which often include the same cast or recurring actors, include *Hairspray*, *Pink Flamingo*, *Cry-Baby* and *Serial Mom*. In the early 1990s, Waters began to create installation art, sculpture and photo-based projects. He is an avid art collector and recently donated his collection to the Baltimore Museum of Art. He is the author of numerous books, and his latest novel is *Liarmouth: A Feel-Bad Romance*.

Wednesday 11:30 am



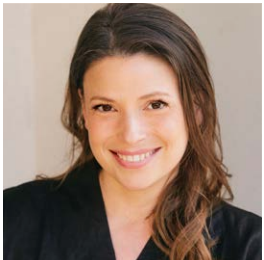
Bari Weiss is the founder and editor of *The Free Press* and host of the podcast *Honestly*. From 2017 to 2020 Weiss was an opinion writer and editor at *The New York Times*. Before that, she was an op-ed and book review editor at *The Wall Street Journal* and a senior editor at *Tablet Magazine*. Her book, *How to Fight Anti-Semitism*, was the winner of a 2019 National Jewish Book Award.

Friday 8:30 am and 11:30 am



Ali Wentworth is an actress, comedian, author and producer. She is the author of three *New York Times* bestsellers, including her most recent, *Ali's Well That Ends Well*. In December 2022, Wentworth became the TV host of ABC's *The Parent Test*, a show that hopes to spark a national conversation about how we're raising our kids in this new age. She is married to George Stephanopoulos, and they have two children.

Thursday 8:30 am and 1 pm



Dubbed "The Adele of Audiobooks" by *The New Yorker*, **Julia Whelan** is a screenwriter, lifelong actor and audiobook narrator of over 500 titles. She has won numerous awards, including Audible's Narrator of the Year and the Best Female Narrator Audie.

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

BOOK SIGNING AND THE FOLLETT BOOKSTORE



Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory

Hours: Wednesday, Thursday 7:30 am-4:00 pm,
Friday 7:30 am-12:45 pm

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

We are giving away these books* at RMWF 2024



* Not all attendees receive all books shown



RMWF 2024 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.) then became editor-in-chief of *Variety*. He is the author of eight nonfiction and fiction books.

Friday 10:30 am and 11:30 am



Albert Berger is an award-winning film producer and founder of Bona Fide Productions. Some of his producing credits include *King of the Hill*, *Cold Mountain*, *Little Miss Sunshine* and *The Peanut Butter Falcon*, as well as the Oscar-nominated film *Nebraska*.

Friday 11:30 am



Emma Blankstein is a sophomore at Brown University and the founder and executive director of the Last Generation Coalition, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization committed to expanding access to genocide education and prevention efforts. Blankstein served as co-chair of the Teen Board at Holocaust Museum LA, where she directed six short films about the lives of Holocaust Survivors. She delivered a TEDx talk on the power of genocide education.

Friday 8:30 am



Hon. Barbara Boxer is a former U.S. Senator from California. 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. Boxer is the author of five books, including *The Art of Tough: Fearlessly Facing Politics and Life*.

Wednesday 1 pm



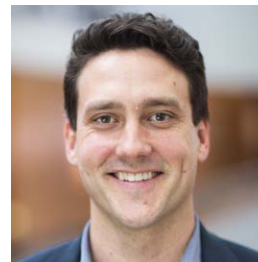
Linda Fairstein is a legal expert on crimes of sexual assault and domestic violence. She led the Sex Crimes Unit of the District Attorney's Office in Manhattan for twenty-five years. Her first novel, *Final Jeopardy*, introduced the critically acclaimed character of Alexandra Cooper, a Manhattan Assistant District Attorney for the Sex Crimes Unit. *Blood Oath* is Fairstein's twentieth novel in the series.

Thursday 10:30 am



Mary Hart is the former host of *Entertainment Tonight*. Her reporting for the show included interviewing nearly every major motion picture, television and music star of the last 30 years. Hart was inducted into the Broadcasting + Cable Hall of Fame in 1999. She was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Emmy Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Wednesday 8:30 am



Nick Higgins is the chief librarian at Brooklyn Public Library in charge of public service across Brooklyn. Under his leadership, Higgins oversees the library's Books Unbanned program—which allows young people to browse its digital collections, regardless of where they live in the U.S.

Wednesday 2 pm



Misty Jones is the director for the San Diego Public Library overseeing the Central Library and 35 branches. Previously, she was Deputy Director for the Central Division which included overseeing the move, opening and operations of the Central Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common.

Wednesday 2 pm



Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis is the 50th Lieutenant Governor of California and 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. She was the first Greek-American woman to serve as U.S. ambassador. Her memoir, *Madam Ambassador: Three Years of Diplomacy, Dinner Parties, and Democracy in Budapest*, chronicles the onset of Hungary's democratic backsliding.

Thursday 3 pm

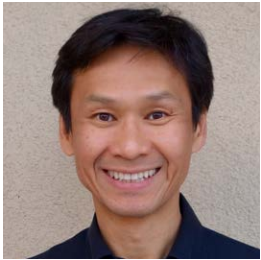


Dr. Markos Kounalakis is an award-winning, nationally-syndicated foreign affairs columnist, author and scholar. Wars and revolutions are where Dr. Kounalakis cut his teeth as a foreign correspondent. He has authored numerous books, including his latest, *Spin Wars and Spy Games: Global Media and Intelligence 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.



Skye Patrick is the library director of LA County Library, one of the largest library systems in the nation with 87 facilities serving 3.5 million people. She is also Los Angeles County's first African American and openly LGBTQ+ library director. In 2019, Patrick was named Librarian of the Year by *Library Journal*.

Wednesday 2 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.

Wednesday 8:30 am and 1 pm

Thursday 9:30 am, 11:30 am and 2 pm

Friday 8:30 am and 11:30 am



Will Rollins was born in Torrance, California, and earned a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College in 2007 and a juris doctor from Columbia Law School in 2012. His career experience includes working as an assistant U.S. attorney and as a former federal prosecutor who focused on counterterrorism and counterintelligence cases in Southern California.

Thursday 11:30 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."

Wednesday 2 pm • Thursday 8:30 am and 3 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 Biennial Internacional 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.

Wednesday 11:30 am • Friday 9:30 am



Elizabeth Sorensen is a board member of the Annenberg Trust at Sunnyslans and Desert X and a trustee of the Royal Drawing School. She is a founder of Portobello Behavioural Health, a bespoke mental health service in London where she lives with her husband and three children.

Friday 9:30 am



Justice Douglas Miller is a justice for the California Court of Appeals. 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 nominated by Governor Schwarzenegger to the Fourth District Court of Appeals where he continues to serve. Justice Miller 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 10:30 am and 2 pm

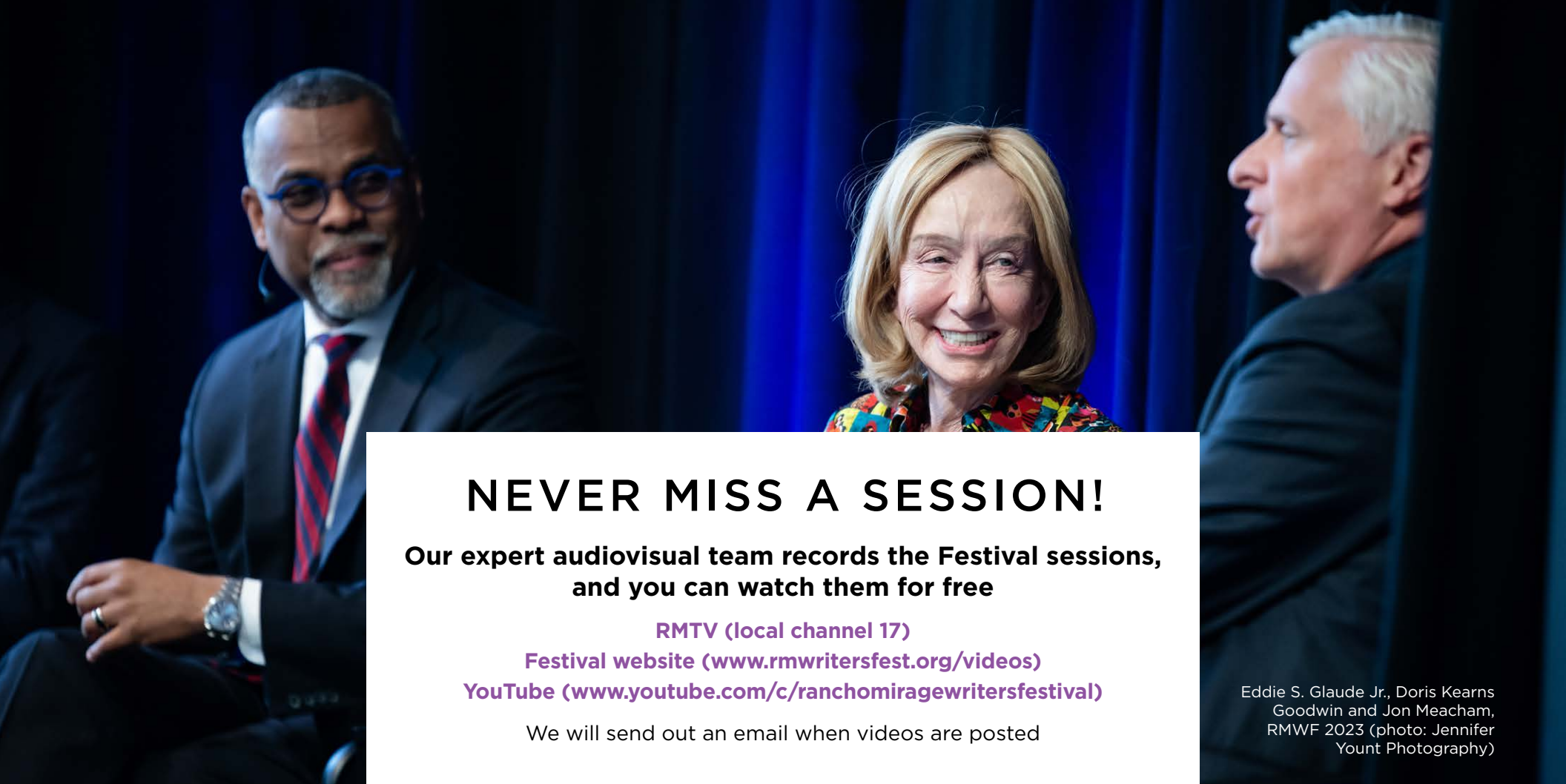
Thursday 9:30 am, 10:30 am and 3 pm

Friday 8:30 am and 11:30 am



Johan Sorensen is the founder of Portobello Behavioural 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.

Wednesday 9:30 am



NEVER MISS A SESSION!

Our expert audiovisual team records 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

Eddie S. Glaude Jr., Doris Kearns Goodwin and Jon Meacham, RMWF 2023 (photo: Jennifer Yount Photography)



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 2.3 million views	170,796 views	1,145,245 views	330,841 views	288,066 views



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

TIPS TO HELP YOU ENJOY THE FESTIVAL

- **Admission to the Writers Festival requires a personalized 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!



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.



Medical Emergency?

In case of a medical emergency please notify any of our staff.

GIVING BACK

WRITERS SERIES

The RMWF experience is all year long! The Rancho Mirage Writers Series is sponsored by **Jordan Schnitzer** with a generous donation funded by the Harold & Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation. The series presents world class authors, notable leaders and celebrated speakers to the public free of charge. In 2023, the Foundation presented 10 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 **2,000** books free to the community. Since the start of the Writers Series in 2017, we have presented talks by 44 writers and given away **8,800** books valued at over **\$150,000**. To learn more, visit our website at www.rmwritersfest.org/rmwf-events/category/writers-series.

2023 WRITERS SERIES



Catherine Grace Katz

Writer and historian discussed her first book, *The Daughters of Yalta*, about the three young women who accompanied their fathers to the Yalta Conference.



Victoria Kastner

Hearst Castle's official historian for over twenty years talked about her new book, *Julia Morgan: An Intimate Biography of the Trailblazing Architect*.



**James Kirchick
with Adam Nagourney**

Journalist and author spoke about his first book, *Secret City: The Hidden History of Gay Washington*, and how homosexuality shaped presidential administrations.



Lis Smith

Political strategist and veteran of twenty political campaigns discussed her eye-opening, entertaining memoir, *Any Given Tuesday: A Political Love Story*.



Nabil Ayers

Music industry executive spoke about his memoir, *My Life in the Sunshine*, about his journey to connect with his musician father.



Seth Rudetsky

Musician, actor, writer and radio host spoke about his book *Musical Theatre for Dummies*, containing real-life anecdotes and the fascinating history of Broadway musicals.



Dr. Satchin Panda

The Circadian Code explores how temporal regulation of metabolism can prevent or reverse chronic diseases and increase lifespan.



James Reginato

Journalist and author discussed his new book, *Growing up Getty*, piercing many of the myths surrounding this complex and elusive family.

2024 WRITERS SERIES



Luke Russert
Thursday, March 7, 2024

Emmy Award-winning journalist and bestselling author will speak about his first book, *Look for Me There*, which recounts his three-year, six-continent travel expedition that took him to nearly seventy countries. 200 free books and reserved front row Angel seating.



Steven Rowley
with **Annabelle Gurwitch**
Thursday, March 14, 2024

Bestselling and award-winning author of *Lily and the Octopus* and *The Guncle* will speak about his new book, *The Celebrants*, which follows a group of college friends as they navigate adulthood. 200 free books and reserved front row Angel seating.



Shannon McKenna Schmidt
Thursday, March 21, 2024

Author and journalist will speak about her new book, *The First Lady of World War II*, which follows Eleanor Roosevelt's daring trek to the Pacific Theater, where the United States was at war with Japan—in the words of a reporter at the time, “the most remarkable journey any president’s wife has ever made.” 200 free books and reserved front row Angel seating.



Neil King Jr.
Thursday, March 28, 2024

Journalist and editor will talk about his first book, *American Ramble*, a stunning memoir about a 330-mile walk from Washington, D.C., to New York City. 200 free books and reserved front row Angel seating.



J. Randy Taraborrelli
Thursday, April 11, 2024

Bestselling author will discuss his new book, *Jackie: Public, Private, Secret*, a fresh and often startling look at the life of the legendary former first lady, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, based on hundreds of interviews with friends, family, and lovers over a thirty-year period. 200 free books and reserved front row Angel seating.

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



GREATER COACHELLA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOLS STUDENT SCHOLARS

RMWF has invited two students and a teacher from each of the 14 local high schools to attend the Festival as our guests. They will be wearing Student Scholar badges, so if you see them, please give them a warm welcome.

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 2024 Festival, all Angel categories were sold out well in advance of the event. If you are interested in being an Angel for 2025, please contact **Jamie Kabler** at jkabler@rmwritersfest.org or contact **Debbie Green Miller** at dmiller@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

“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

Angel & Sponsor BENEFITS

Angels (\$5,000)

- **Two all access passes** (value of \$1,000).
- Lunches Wednesday and Thursday.
- Exclusive Angels event with **amazing guest speakers** and **reserved-seating** dinner.
- Dedicated Angel Concierges.
- **Reserved seating for Angels only** in the London Room.
- **Reserved seating for all Writers Series events** throughout the year.

Silver Angels (\$10,000)

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

- **Two reserved silver chairs** in the front of the London room.
- **Signage and recognition** at the Festival.
- Concierge assistance in purchasing additional Festival passes.
- Special **preview night** of the 2025 Writers Festival.

Event Sponsors (\$15,000)

Become an event sponsor and receive these **additional** exclusive benefits.

- **Two reserved event sponsor chairs** in the front of the London room.
- **Reserved seating** on the Helene Galen Patio for lunches.
- **Signage and recognition** at the Festival.
- Concierge assistance in purchasing additional Festival passes.
- Special **preview night** of the 2025 Writers Festival.

Golden Angels (\$20,000)

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

- **Two reserved golden chairs** in the London Room in the front row with your names.
- **Reserved seating** on the Helene Galen Patio for lunches.
- **Signage and recognition** at the Festival.
- Concierge assistance in purchasing additional Festival passes.
- Special **preview night** of the 2025 Writers Festival.

Platinum Angels (\$50,000)

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

- **Two reserved platinum chairs** in the London Room in the front row with your names.
- **Reserved table with your name** on the Helene Galen Patio for lunches.
- **Signage and recognition** at the Festival.
- Concierge assistance in purchasing additional Festival passes.
- Special **preview night** of the 2025 Writers Festival.

2024 SUPPORTERS

Double Platinum Angels (\$100,000)

Helene Galen & Jamie Kabler

Arlene Schnitzer*

Jordan Schnitzer

Founding Angels

Helene Galen

Diane & Hal Gershowitz

Anne Holland*

Lois Horvitz*

Donna MacMillan

Jan Salta

Platinum Angels (\$50,000)

Sherrie & Ron* Auen

Eisenhower Health

Harold Matzner

Catharine & Sanford* Reed

Marion & Robert* Rosenthal

Jan Salta

Golden Angels (\$20,000) **SOLD OUT**

Sally* & Miles Berger	Mary McCarthy & Warren Platt
Lynn Bremer	Lori & Michael Milken
Edye & Eli* Broad	Donivee & Merrill* Nash
Lucyann & Jerry Carlton	Gayle & Brent Naylor
Dan Clivner & Steven Cochran*	Chris & Dick Newman
Bryn & Richard DeBeikes	Patty & Arthur* Newman
Joel Douglas	Deborah & Kenneth Novack
Wendy & Robert Goodfriend	Karen & Robert Rishwain
Judy & Richard Guggenhime	Elise Sacks
Anne Holland* & Nancy & Greg Meidel	Phyllis & Gary* Schahet
Peggy Jacobs	Christine & James Scott
Barbara & Ronnie Kahn	Cathy & Tod Spieker
Renee Katz	Ambassador Tim Timken
Linda & Ed Kazazian	& Sue Timken
Carol & Henry Levy	Williamson Family Foundation

Event Sponsors (\$15,000)

The Dorothy & George Goldstein Family	Marjorie & Stephen Kulp
Susan & Arthur Hill	Katherine & Judd Malkin
Robert Judelson	Gwen Ramras
Linda & Kerry Killinger	

Silver Angels (\$10,000) **SOLD OUT**

**Carol Ammon
& Dr. Marie Pinizzotto**

Trish & John Anderson

Anonymous

**Judy Appelbaum
& Barbara Appelbaum**

Suvina Mah & Peter Armstrong

Donna & Dr. Andrew Barrett

Bunni & Rick Benaron

Karen & Dr. Howard Berger

Robin & Robert Berman

Lynn & Les Bider

**Marlene Breslow-Blitstein
& Berle Blitstein**

Susan Boeing

Lynn Booth

Sandra Borns & Indie Behr

Sandy Bosley & Robert Miller

Barbara & Alex Bowie

Sallie & Allan Bulley

**Rosemarie & Dean L.
Buntrock**

Susan & Craig Burger

Nancy Burke & Ian Telfer

**Nancy Sindelar &
Lewis Collens**

Joan Cortopassi

**Senator John C. Danforth
& Sally Danforth**

Alison & Gary Diamond

Marilyn & Terry Diamond

Sherry Dumke

Susan & Lonnie Edelheit

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Cynthia Farber & Karen Allen

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Raymond Galante**

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Yvonne & Leonard Gionet

Ilene & Stanley Gold

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Greg Goodman

Shelli Goodman

Susan & Jim Gould

Kathy Marie Grieve

Lola & Duane* Hagadone

Val & Bill Hall

Judy & Scott Harrington

Linda & Mitch Hart

Cathy & Rick Hirschmann

Ellen & Irv Hockaday

Vicki & Bill* Hood

Frances Horwich

Althea & Bob Howe

Suz Hunt

Lonnie Israel & Dr. Marvin Rice

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James H. Kabler III

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Susan & Bruce Konheim

Kovler Family Foundation

Dr. Susan Krevoy & Leo Spiwak

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Nancy & Larry Levitt

Carol Schnitzer Lewis

Audrey & Chuck Linke

Carol Luber

Susan & Rodney Lubeznik

Connie & Bob Lurie

Susan & Jay Mall

JoAnn McGrath

Zan & Paul Merriman

Cindy Miscikowski

**Hon. Robert Moon
& Robert Hammack**

Dianne Moss

Merle Mullin & Diane Anderson

Tricia & Jim Munro

Cydney Osterman

Rebecca & Robert Pohlad

Bettsy & Wallace Preble

Tricia & Tom Prentice

Madeline & Bruce Ramer

Ann* & Jon Reynolds

Sharon & Nelson* Rising

Charlotte Renouf & Peter Roell

Barbara Rogers & Gary Geske

Debbie Rolin & Andrea Sheya

Ellen & Richard Sandler

Shelly & Richard Sapkin

Dr. Joe & Carol Scherger

Pame & Ernest Schmider

**Ambassador Rockwell
Schnabel & Marna Schnabel**

Susan Schnitzer

June & Paul Schorr III

Linda & John Seiter

Kathleen L. Seymour

Jane & Larry Sherman

Kim & Perry Shwachman

Gary Russell Sitzmann

Donna & Paul Skillern

Katie & Scott Small

Susan St. Louis & Dr. Khoi Le

Diane & David Steffy

Robert Stolar

Diane Pace Sullivan

**Kenneth Talmage &
Connie Talmage**

Barbera Thornhill

Kim & Larry Turner

Sheila & Wally Weisman

Laura & Michael Werner

**Senator Francis A.
& Mary-Ann Wong**

Angels (\$5,000) SOLD OUT

Alice Abt

Toni Ackermann

Judy Allen

Judith Allred

Nancy & Perry Altshule

Barbara Andersen

Janet & Steven Anixter

Merle Dee Arenson

Lynn & Brock Armstrong

Nora & Guy Barron

Rose & Dr. Michael Baskin

Barbara & Pete Bassi

Laura & Wayne Bellows

Christine Benter

Harriet Bernstein

Joann & Carl Bianco

Judith Blanchard

Chotsie Blank

Carole Bookman

Senator Barbara Boxer
& Stewart Boxer

Lynn & Doug Brengel

Sera & Gary Brill

Linda & Larry Brooks

MJ Burns

Judy Campbell

Lyn Chernis

Joanne & Bill Chunowitz

Nancy Coffey

Laurie & Garry Crocker

Ann Marie & James Cullen

Alison Davis

Desert Allergy Center, Diane
& Dr. David Waldman

Swanie Dolin

Susan Donahue

Kris & Steve Egger

Lexie Ellsworth

Phyllis & Dan Epstein

Carol Fragen

Lillian & Steve Frank

Loren & Howard Friend

Barbara & Bernie Fromm

Christina Gantz

Angie Gerber
& Steven La Salvia

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Ilene & Ross Grabel

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Nancy Miller
Connie S. Mora
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Frances Muir
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Dr. Marsha & Bill Pachter
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Wendy Perkins
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Marylouise Oates & Robert Shrum
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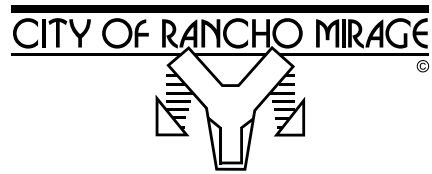
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Gwen Ramras



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Without these terrific partners, the Rancho Mirage Writers Festival would not be possible.

PRESENTING PARTNERS





RANCHO MIRAGE CITY COUNCIL

The Rancho Mirage Writers Festival is profoundly grateful for the steadfast and generous support we've received from the Rancho Mirage City Council over the past decade. Their unwavering commitment has been instrumental in our journey, and we are deeply appreciative of their continued partnership.

Year after year, the feedback we receive from writers, Angels and readers underscores the significance of hosting our event in a public library. The enriching and inspiring atmosphere created within the library's walls is a testament to the collaborative efforts of the City Council and the Festival. Furthermore, the operational support provided by the City, primarily through the dedicated efforts of Library and City staff, has been invaluable in ensuring the Festival's success.

It is worth noting that with the City Council's exceptional level of support and enthusiasm, the Rancho Mirage Writers Festival has achieved remarkable recognition, earning its place as America's Best Writers Festival in a relatively short period. This achievement reflects not only the Festival's dedication to literary excellence but also the City of Rancho Mirage's commitment to being the cultural heart of the Palm Springs valley, fostering an environment that inspires lifelong learning.

In celebrating our 10 years of collaboration, we express our deepest gratitude to the Rancho Mirage City Council for their unwavering support. Together, we have created something truly extraordinary, and we remain committed to continuing our shared mission of promoting literature, culture and lifelong learning in our wonderful city.

Pictured: Councilmember Michael O'Keefe, Councilmember Lynn Mallotto, Mayor Steve Downs, Mayor Pro Tem Ted Weill and Councilmember Meg Marker. Also thank you to their partners: Jim Hehn, Geri Downs, Jenny Weill and Todd Marker.



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, Michael R. Cobden, Lisa S. Weaver, Daniel Trevino II, Gulan F. Tahir. **Paralegal:** Jacob T. Gill. **Administrative Staff:** Monica R. Cabrera, Ana D. Fernandez.

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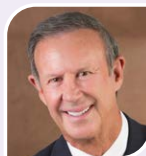
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Ruby Cooper
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Lead Author
Concierge



Gabe Coddling
Marketing
Director

As we celebrate the ongoing success of the Rancho Mirage Writers Festival, we want to take a moment to express our profound gratitude to the entire City of Rancho Mirage staff, including the Library and Observatory teams, the dedicated concierges and every individual who contributes to making our Festival a resounding success.

Their unwavering commitment to excellence, tireless dedication and passion for nurturing the written word have been the driving forces behind the Festival's growth and acclaim. Each year, their hard work and collective efforts transform the library into a vibrant celebration of literature and culture that leaves a lasting impact on our community and beyond.



We would also like to extend a special acknowledgment to City Manager **Isaiah Hagerman** for his exceptional leadership and support. Isaiah's vision and guidance have been instrumental in shaping the Festival into the premier literary event it has become. His commitment to fostering a thriving cultural environment in Rancho Mirage has not only elevated the Festival but also enriched the lives of all who attend.

As we look ahead to the future, we are deeply grateful for the city's continued partnership and dedication. Together, we will continue to inspire, educate and celebrate the world of literature through the Rancho Mirage Writers Festival.



HALL of FAME

FESTIVAL WRITERS 2014-2023



**Dan
Abrams**



**David
Abrams**



**Teddy
Abrams**



**André
Aciman**



**Dr. David
B. Agus**



**Jonathan
Allen**



**Anne
Applebaum**



**Ashton
Applewhite**



**Marie
Arana**



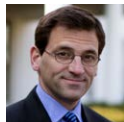
**Rick
Atkinson**



**Shalom
Auslander**



**Matt
Bai**



**Peter
Baker**



**Susan
Ford Bales**



**Dave
Barry**



**Peter
Bart**



**Sir Antony
Beevor**



**A. Scott
Berg**



**Ronen
Bergman**



**Dr. Gregory
Berns**



**Max
Boot**



**Tom Parker
Bowles**



**Manoah
Bowman**



**Hon. Barbara
Boxer**



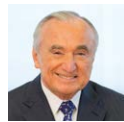
**Jennifer
Finney Boylan**



**Father Gregory
Boyle**



**H.W.
Brands**



**William
Bratton**



**Donna
Brazile**



**Dr. Dale
Bredesen**



**Richard
Breitman**



**Douglas
Brinkley**



**Geraldine
Brooks**



**Daniel James
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**Sean B.
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**James
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**Michael
Chabon**



**Jeff
Chang**



**Dr. Lynne
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**Lee
Child**



**Michael
Childers**



**Susan
Choi**



**Dr. Elizabeth
Cobbs**



**William D.
Cohan**



**Joshua
Cohen**



**Bob
Colacello**



**Reed
Farrel Coleman**



**Jackie
Collins**



**Kelly
Corrigan**



**Robert
Costa**



**Geoffrey
Cowan**



**Clifton
Truman Daniel**



**Jonathan
Darman**



**Wade
Davis**



**Bill
Dedman**



**Nicholas
Delbanco**



**Sally
Denton**



**Alan
Dershowitz**



**Junot
Díaz**



**Matthew
Dickman**

HALL of FAME

FESTIVAL WRITERS 2014-2023



**Michael
Dickman**



**Lord
Michael Dobbs**



**Anthony
Doerr**



**Cameron
Douglas**



**Michael
Douglas**



**Maureen
Dowd**



**David
Duchovny**



**Geoff
Dyer**



**Philip
Eade**



**David
Ebershoff**



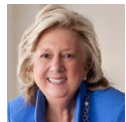
**Jennifer
Egan**



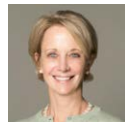
**Susan
Eisenhower**



**Bernardine
Evaristo**



**Linda
Fairstein**



**Deborah
Fallows**



**James
Fallows**



**John A.
Farrell**



**Shane
Feldman**



**Jessica
Fellowes**



**Sally
Field**



**Nathan
Filer**



**William
Finnegan**



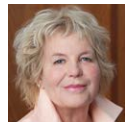
**Senator
Jeff Flake**



**Jonathan
Safran Foer**



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Joy Fowler**



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Franks**



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Fuller**



**Diana
Gabaldon**



**Hal
Gershowitz**



**Masha
Gessen**



**Dana
Gioia**



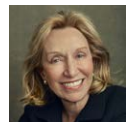
**Susan
Glasser**



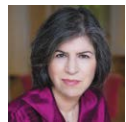
**Eddie S.
Glaude Jr.**



**Dr. Adrian
Goldsworthy**



**Doris Kearns
Goodwin**



**Meryl
Gordon**



**Jonathan
Gottschall**



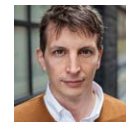
**Peggy
Grande**



**Lauren
Groff**



**Annabelle
Gurwitch**



**Garth
Risk Hallberg**



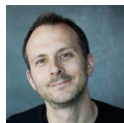
**Nigel
Hamilton**



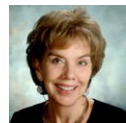
**Tom
Hanks**



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Harbach**



**Tim
Harford**



**Molly
Haskell**



**John C.
Havens**



**Dr. Carla
Hayden**



**Peter
Heller**



**Carl
Hiaasen**



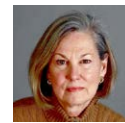
**Robert
Hicks**



**Tom
Holland**



**Matthias
Hollwich**



**Karen
Elliott House**



**Katherine
Nouri Hughes**



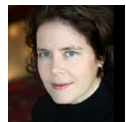
**Edward
Humes**



**Greg
Iles**



**Barbara
Isenberg**



**Nancy
Isenberg**



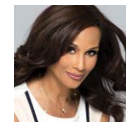
**Pico
Iyer**



**Sir Derek
Jacobi**



**Colonel
Jack Jacobs**



**Beverly
Johnson**



**Craig
Johnson**



**Kirk
Johnson**



**T. Geronimo
Johnson**

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Jonathan Lethem



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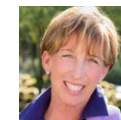
Dr. Valter Longo



Laurence Luckinbill



Frank Luntz



Janice Lyle



Ben Macintyre



Dr. Margaret MacMillan



Beth Macy



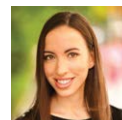
Lord Mandelson



Ben Mankiewicz



Bob Mankoff



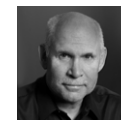
Molly Guptill Manning



Richard Mason



Jason Matthews



Steve McCurry



Scott McEwen



Tim McGraw



Stewart McLaurin



Admiral William H. McRaven



Jon Meacham



Rebecca Mead



Dinaw Mengestu



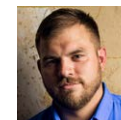
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James Andrew Miller



Tim Miller



Travis Mills



Lorrie Moore



Jennifer Morris



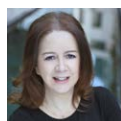
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Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee



Adam Nagourney



Lisa Napoli



Andrew Neiderman



Celeste Ng



Viet Thanh Nguyen



C.L. Max Nikias



Lynne Olson



Michael Ondaatje



Tommy Orange



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Orth**



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O'Shaughnessy**



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Osnos**



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Packer**



**Amie
Parnes**



**James
Patterson**



**Richard
North Patterson**



**Pamela
Paul**



**Chris
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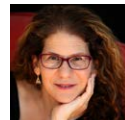
**Norman
Pearlstine**



**Nathaniel
Philbrick**



**Arthur
Phillips**



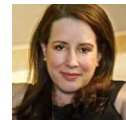
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**Dennis
Prager**



**Anna
Quindlen**



**Julia
Quinn**



**Dr. Helen
Rappaport**



**Dr. Azra
Raza**



**Richard
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**Ruth
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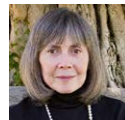
**Benjamin
Reiss**



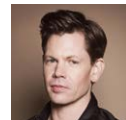
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Reiss**



**Ben
Rhodes**



**Anne
Rice**



**Christopher
Rice**



**Linda
Johnson Rice**



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J. Riordan**



**Lord Andrew
Roberts**



**Richard
Rodriguez**



**Theodore
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**Elisabeth
Rosenthal**



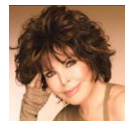
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Rosin**



**Karl
Rove**



**Philip
Rucker**



**Carole
Bayer Sager**



**George
Saunders**



**Van Gordon
Sauter**



**Dr. Joseph
Scherger**



**Congressman
Adam Schiff**



**Stacy
Schiff**



**Omid
Scobie**



**Nell
Scovell**



**Anne
Sebba**



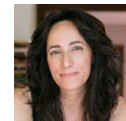
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See**



**Bud
Selig**



**Shaka
Senghor**



**Danzy
Senna**



**Jeff
Shaara**



**Ari
Shavit**



**Maggie
Shipstead**



**Robert
Shrum**



**Gary
Shteyngart**



**Hampton
Sides**



**Mona
Simpson**



**Dr. Gary
Small**



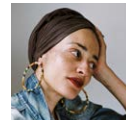
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Smith**



**Katy
Simpson Smith**



**Sally
Bedell Smith**



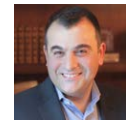
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Smith**



**Deborah
Solomon**



**Suzanne
Somers**



**Ali
Soufan**



**Dr. Erroll
Southers**



**Congresswoman
Jackie Speier**



**Candy
Spelling**

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Kevin Starr



Richard Stengel



Bret Stephens



T.J. Stiles



Dacre Stoker



Debra Tate



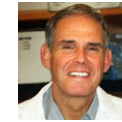
Paul Theroux



Evan Thomas



Héctor Tobar



Dr. Eric Topol



Amor Towles



Bonnie Tsui



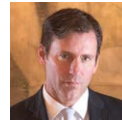
Karen Tumulty



Scott Turow



David L. Ulin



Mark K. Updegrove



Natasha Gregson Wagner



Robert Wagner



Ayelet Waldman



Clemantine Wamariya



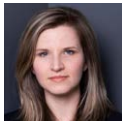
Joseph Wambaugh



Sam Wasson



Tim Weiner



Tara Westover



Colson Whitehead



Del Quentin Wilber



Victoria Wilson



Simon Winchester



Jay Winik



Mishna Wolff



Meg Wolitzer



Gordon Wood



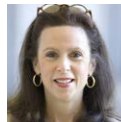
Zachary Wood



Judy Woodruff



Lawrence Wright



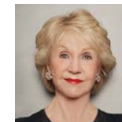
Robin Wright



Emily Yellin



Michael York



Pat York



Carl Zimmer



Richard Zoglin



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“THE UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL” • FEBRUARY 5-7, 2025

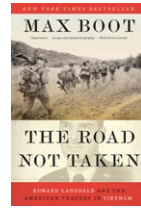
Here is a sneak peek of some of the writers and guests, with more to come!



Rick Atkinson



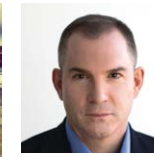
Max Boot



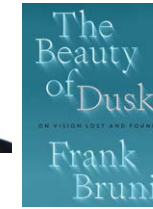
H.W. Brands



Douglas Brinkley



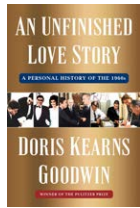
Frank Bruni



Jelani Cobb



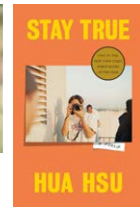
Doris Kearns Goodwin



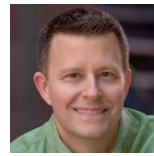
David Hogg



Hua Hsu



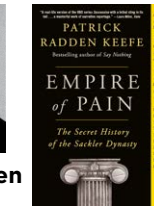
Molly Jong-Fast



Sidney Karger



Patrick Radden Keefe



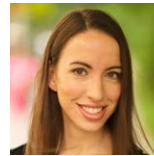
Sam Kestenbaum



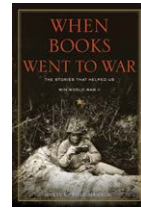
Harry Litman



Host of Talking Feds Podcast



Molly Guptill Manning



Jon Meacham



Tim Miller



Richard Osman



Tyler Pager



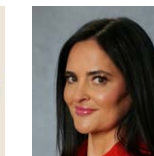
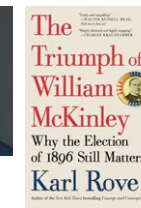
Allison Pataki



Steven Pinker



Karl Rove



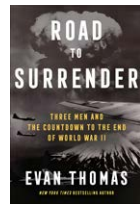
Lis Smith



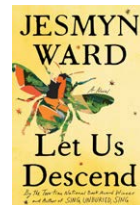
Bret Stephens



Evan Thomas



Jesmyn Ward



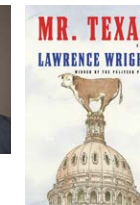
Ralph White



Rick Wilson



Lawrence Wright



PASSES GO ON SALE MARCH 1, 2024

The Eleventh Annual Rancho Mirage Writers Festival will be February 5-7, 2025.

For the seventh time, the cost for passes will remain at \$500, thanks to the generosity of our Angels. Passes for the 2025 RMWF will go on sale March 1, 2024, at 9:00 am PST.

Look for emails with more details.



The 2025 RMWF theme celebrates the United States Semiquincentennial, ahead of the 250th anniversary of the 1776 United States Declaration of Independence

RMWF
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