

Dozens of Best-Selling Authors Coming to Fort Myers!

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA, Jan. 13, 2015 – Twenty nine nationally acclaimed and best-selling authors are coming to Fort Myers to meet their fans and talk about their books at the 16th annual Southwest Florida Reading Festival on March 21 at the Harborside Event Center and Centennial Park in the Fort Myers River District. The Reading Festival brings in popular authors for adults, teens and children from all over the country to stimulate the community and encourage a community wide culture of reading for pleasure and personal development. The festival is a day- long event filled with fascinating and dynamic author presentations, lively programs and activities for teens and children, the latest library technology, contests, booksellers, book signings, a free book for every child and teen and the Reading Rocks! Teen Battle of the Bands! The Festival draws an average of 18,000 people annually.

The festival kicks-off Friday evening, March 20 with the Evening with the Authors where all the authors meet and mingle with the public. A few of the award-winning authors scheduled to attend both events include adult authors: Susan Mallery and Jeff Lindsay; teen authors: Holly Goldberg Sloan, and Cinda Williams Chima ; and children’s authors: Tom Angleberger and Amy Ignatow. The complete list of authors can be found at www.readfest.org. “The Southwest Florida Reading Festival has an outstanding reputation among authors and publishers which is how we continue to bring in great authors year after year,” says Reading Festival coordinator, Margie Byers. “The festival committee works year-round to recruit diverse and popular authors and they have done another stellar job this year!”

The Reading Festival is free and is 100 percent community supported through generous donations, sponsorships and grants. To help ensure the continuation of this free community event visit www.readfest.org to make a secure online donation. Author information, dates of partner events, directions to the event and more are available for your convenience 24 hours a day at www.readfest.org or call 239-479-INFO (4636).

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Author list and short biographies follow; photos available on request.

ADULT

Richard Blanco was chosen as the fifth inaugural poet of the United States, becoming the youngest, first Latino, immigrant and openly gay writer to hold the honor. His books include *City of a Hundred Fires*, *Directions to the Beach of the Dead* and *For All of Us, One Today: An Inaugural Poet’s Journey*. Visit www.richard-blanco.com.

Kim Boykin is the author of *The Wisdom of Hair* and *Palmetto Moon* from Berkley Books, and several novellas from the Tule Publishing Group. Visit www.kimboykin.com.

C. Robert Cargill has written for *Ain’t it Cool News* for nearly a decade under the pseudonym Massawyrms and served as a staff writer for Film.com and Hollywood.com. He is the screenwriter of the film *Sinister*. Visit www.crobertcargill.com.

David Hagberg is a former Air Force cryptographer who has traveled extensively in Europe, the Arctic and the Caribbean. He has published more than 20 novels of suspense, including the bestselling *Allah’s Scorpion*, *Dance with the Dragon* and *The Expediter*. Visit www.david-hagberg.com.

Nancy Horan is the author of *Loving Frank*, winner of the 2009 James Fenimore Cooper Prize for Best Historical Fiction. Her latest, *Under the Wide and Starry Sky*, explores the relationship of Robert Louis Stevenson and his American wife. Visit www.nancyhoran.com.

Richard Kadrey is the author of *Sandman Slim*, *Kill the Dead*, *Aloha from Hell*, *Devil Said Bang*, *Kill City Blues*, *Getaway God*, *Dead Set*, *Butcher Bird* and *Metrophage*. *Sandman Slim* is currently being developed for the screen. Visit www.richardkadrey.com.

Shelly King works for a major software company as a social media strategist and information architect. *The Moment of Everything* is her debut novel. Visit www.shellyking.com.

Jen Lancaster is the author of 10 books. She has appeared on the *Today Show*, *The Joy Behar Show*, and NPR's *All Things Considered*. Her latest is *Twisted Sisters*. Visit www.jennsylvania.com.

Jon Land is the author of 37 novels including the *Caitlin Strong* series and the co-author of the nonfiction best-seller *Betrayal*. His latest release is *Strong Darkness*. Visit www.jonlandbooks.com.

Jeff Lindsay is the bestselling author of the *Dexter* novels which debuted in 2004 with *Darkly Dreaming Dexter*. They are the basis of the hit Showtime and CBS series, *Dexter*. Visit www.dexter-books.com.

Laura Lippman is the author of the *Tess Monaghan* series which has won virtually every major mystery prize including the Edgar, Anthony and Agatha awards. Her stand-alone novels *What the Dead Know*, *Life Sentences* and *I'd Know You Anywhere* have received critical acclaim. Visit www.lauralippman.net.

Susan Mallery has entertained millions of readers with her witty and emotional stories about women and the relationships that move them. Her latest is the March 2015 release *The Girls of Mischief Bay*. Visit www.susanmallery.com.

Mary Alice Monroe is the author of 16 novels, two children's books and nonfiction. She has received numerous awards, including the 2014 South Carolina Award for Literary Excellence and the RT Lifetime Achievement Award. Her latest release is *The Summer Wind*. Visit www.maryalicemonroe.com.

Carla Norton is a novelist, journalist and true crime writer. Her debut fiction, *The Edge of Normal*, was a Thriller Award finalist in 2014. She has written two books of true crime, including *Perfect Victim*, which was put on the reading list for the FBI Behavioral Sciences Unit. Visit www.carlanorton.com.

Dani Pettrey is the author of the *Alaskan Courage* series. Her honors include the Daphne du Maurier award, two HOLT Medallions and two National Readers' Choice Awards. Her latest is the February 2015 release *Sabotaged*. Visit www.danipettrey.com.

Randy Rawls is the author of the *Beth Bowman, P.I.* and *Ace Edwards* series. He is a retired U.S. Army officer who now lives in Delray Beach, FL. Visit www.randyrawls.com.

Candis Terry is the author of the *Sweet, Texas* series and the *Sugar Shack* series. She was born and raised in Southern California and now makes her home on an Idaho farm. Visit www.candisterry.com.

YOUNG ADULT

Jennifer Lynn Barnes has written several acclaimed young adult novels. She has advanced degrees in psychology, psychiatry and cognitive science. She received her Ph.D. from Yale University this year and is now a professor in psychology. Her latest is *The Naturals: Killer Instinct*. Visit www.jenniferlynnbarnes.com.

Cinda Williams Chima is the best-selling author of two teen fantasy series. *The Heir Chronicles* is a contemporary fantasy series set in Ohio. *The Seven Realms* series is a traditional fantasy set in the long ago and far away. All of her novels involve wizards behaving badly. Visit www.cindachima.com.

Maile Meloy is the bestselling author of two novels for young people, *The Apothecary* and *The Apprentices*. Her short stories have appeared in *The New Yorker* and *The Paris Review*, and she has written two novels and two story collections for adults. Visit www.mailemeloy.com.

Benjamin Alire Saenz, a novelist, poet and writer of young adult and children's books, was named one of the 50 Most Inspiring Authors in the World by *Poets & Writers* magazine. His young adult novel *Sammy & Juliana in Hollywood*, a staple in many high school curricula, was a Top Ten Best Book for Young Adults and winner of the Américas Award.

Holly Goldberg Sloan is the author of *I'll Be There*, *Counting by 7s* and *Just Call My Name*. An accomplished Hollywood screenwriter, she considers *I'll Be There* to be her most rewarding work. Visit www.hollygoldbergsloan.com.

CHILDREN

Tom Angleberger is the author of the bestselling *Origami Yoda* series. He is also the author of *Horton Halfpott* and *Fake Mustache*, both Edgar Award nominees and *The Qwikpick Papers*. Visit www.origamiyoda.com.

Frank Cammuso is the creator of the graphic novel series *Knights of the Lunch Table* and illustrator of several books including *Otto's Orange Day*. The first book in his series, *The Misadventures of Salem Hyde: Book One: Spelling Trouble* was chosen by School Library Journal as one of the Top Ten Children's Graphic Novels of the Year. Visit www.cammuso.com.

Charise Mericle Harper's books include the *Just Grace* and *Fashion Kitty* series, *Cupcake, Go! Go! Go! Stop!*, *Bean Dog & Nugget*, *Princess Patty Meets Her Match*, the *Sasquatch & Aliens* series and *Dreamer, Wisher, Liar*. Visit www.chariseharper.com.

Amy Ignatow is a cartoonist and author of the *Popularity Papers* series of scrapbook-style illustrated novels. She is a graduate of Moore College of Art and Design and lives in Philadelphia with her husband and daughter.

Laurie Keller is the author and illustrator of such picture books as *The Scrambled States of America* books, *Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners* an early chapter book series, *The Adventures of Arnie the Doughnut-Bowling Alley Bandit* and *Invasion of the Ufonuts*. Visit www.lauriekeller.com.

Dana Sullivan is the author and illustrator of *Kay Kay's Alphabet Safari* and *Ozzie and the Art Contest* and is the illustrator of the *Digger and Daisy* series. Visit www.danajsullivan.com.

Duncan Tonatiuh's first book, *Dear Primo*, won the 2011 Pura Belpré Honor for Illustration, and *Diego Rivera* won the 2012 Pura Belpré Illustration Award. His most recent title, *Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote*, received the Pura Belpré Honor for illustration and narrative. Visit www.duncantonatiuh.com.