

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Evening with the Authors advance sale discount ends soon**

Fort Myers, FL, Jan. 13, 2015 – Act now to meet, mingle and dine with dozens of best-selling authors at Evening with the Authors on Friday, March 18, at the Marina at Edison Ford, 2360 West 1st Street in downtown Fort Myers. The cocktail reception in the Edison Ford Coconut Grove on the beautiful Caloosahatchee River begins at 6 p.m. A plated dinner and program follows at 7 p.m.

The reception is a chance to meet the 20\+ authors who will headline the Southwest Florida Reading Festival the following day. Reservations are required. Discounted advance tickets can be purchased for \$45 by Jan. 31. Tickets are then \$50. Space is limited. The deadline for reservations is midnight March 3. Go to [www.readfest.org](http://www.readfest.org) and select Evening with the Authors to make a reservation ([www.readfest.org/eveningwithauthors.aspx](http://www.readfest.org/eveningwithauthors.aspx)).

The dinner will honor author Debbie Macomber with the 2016 Distinguished Author Award for her generosity and work as world spokesperson for World Vision's Knit For Kids program. The evening is sponsored by Books-A-Million and the Edison & Ford Winter Estates. To see the list of outstanding authors attending the festival and dinner go to [www.readfest.org/Authors](http://www.readfest.org/Authors).

The dinner is a choice of slow roasted prime rib with au jus, macadamia crusted mahi mahi or eggplant parmesan with spaghetti and pomodoro (vegetarian option). The reception will include a cash bar and feature "Read a Ritas."

Complete author information, schedules of festival activities, partner events, directions to the event and more, are available in the festival app available free at the App Store or Google Play, [www.readfest.org](http://www.readfest.org) or by calling 239-479-4636.

**ABOUT THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA READING FESTIVAL**

Lee County Library System produces the Southwest Florida Reading Festival to inform the community about the resources and services available at their local Lee County libraries and to remind them these resources and services are free with a library card. The Reading Festival is free and serves all ages and a variety of cultures with presentations from best-selling authors. Some of the authors who have attended in the past include: Sue Monk Kidd, Susan Mallery, R.L. Stine, Janet Evanovich, Nelson DeMille, Erik Larson and several hundred more.

The Reading Festival's objectives are to promote reading and literacy; bring awareness of the library's programs and resources; foster partnerships between the Lee County Library System and the community. The Southwest Florida Reading Festival helps build a literate community and improve the local standard of living. The Southwest Florida Reading Festival helps children and teens to develop an interest in reading independently and therefore an increase in vocabulary and writing; increases family bonding and reading time; positively affects the attitude and behavior of families and the community regarding reading; develops a more educated and enriched community. For more information go to [www.ReadFest.org](http://www.ReadFest.org)