

**Immediate Release**  
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## **An Evening with the Authors Tickets On Sale Now!**

Southwest, Fla., Jan. 30, 2015 – A unique evening comes once a year to Fort Myers; the Evening with the Authors where people can enjoy meeting, talking with and dining with their favorite best-selling authors. The event includes a cocktail reception and plated dinner with the 20 plus authors who will headline the Southwest Florida Reading Festival the following day. The evening will take place Friday, March 20, at The Marina at Edison Ford, 2360 West 1st Street in downtown Fort Myers beginning with the reception at 6 p.m. The ticket price is \$50 and reservations are required. The deadline for reservations is March 5 at midnight. Go to [www.readfest.org](http://www.readfest.org) and select Evening with the Authors to make a reservation ([www.readfest.org/evening](http://www.readfest.org/evening).) “It is a very relaxed and interesting evening,” says Margie Byers, Southwest Florida Reading Festival Coordinator. “People are thrilled to talk with the authors because the authors are obviously very interesting people!” The dinner will honor author Mary Alice Monroe with the 2015 Distinguished Author Award for her unique contributions to the communities where she has lived. The evening is sponsored by Books-A-Million. To see the list of outstanding authors attending the Festival and dinner go to [www.readfest.org/Authors](http://www.readfest.org/Authors).

The Reading Festival 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](http://www.readfest.org) to make a secure online donation. Complete author information, schedules of festival activities, dates of partner events, directions to the event and more, are available for your convenience 24 hours a day at [www.readfest.org](http://www.readfest.org) or call 239-337-READ (7323).

**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](http://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](http://www.kimboykin.com).

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

**David Dorsey** has been a writer and report for the Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press since 1994. *Fourth Down in Dunbar* is his debut novel. Visit [www.fourthdownindunbar.com](http://www.fourthdownindunbar.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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.shellyking.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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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, Fla.. Visit [www.randyrawls.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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* her most rewarding work. Visit [www.hollygoldbergsloan.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.duncantonatiuh.com).

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