

Contact: Betsy Clayton, APR/CPRC  
Communications Director  
Lee County Government  
239-826-4606  
bclayton@leegov.com  
or  
Margie Byers, APR  
Festival Coordinator  
Lee County Library System  
239-533-4826  
mbyers@leegov.com

**Reading Festival's schedule set with best-selling authors**

FORT MYERS, FL, Jan. 10, 2017 – More than two dozen nationally acclaimed authors plan to meet their fans and talk about their books at the 18th annual Southwest Florida Reading Festival on Saturday, March 18, at Centennial Park in the Fort Myers River District.

The festival is a free, day-long event filled with sensational author talks, the latest library technology, contests, booksellers, book signings, activities for teens and children, 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 Reading Festival is the largest one-day reading festival in Florida and runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine.

“Authors come from all over the country and many genres are represented,” said Margie Byers, Festival Coordinator. “Most are award winners, a couple are coauthors with Tom Clancy and James Patterson and all are very popular with their readers. It is a pleasure to meet these creative and interesting people who write these amazing novels and keep track of all the details.”

The festival starts Friday evening, March 17, at the Marina at Edison & Ford with the Evening with the Authors. The event provides the opportunity for fans to meet, mingle and dine with authors. Tickets to the dinner and reception can be purchased at [www.Readfest.org](http://www.Readfest.org).

A few of the award-winning authors scheduled to attend both events include adult authors: Shelley Shepard Gray, James Grippando, Gregg Hurwitz, Mark Greaney, Susan Wiggs, Lori Wilde; teen authors include: Sara Shepard, Kami Garcia and S.J. Kincaid; and children’s authors: Chris Grabenstein, Salina Yoon and Candace Fleming. The complete list of authors can be found at [www.readfest.org](http://www.readfest.org).

The Reading Festival, presented by the Lee County Library System is free and 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. Author information, dates of partner events, directions to the event and more, is available for your convenience 24 hours a day at [www.readfest.org](http://www.readfest.org) or call 239-479-4636.

**Biographies and photos available on request. Entire author list follows:**

**ADULT AUTHORS**

**Holly Brown**

1. *This Is Not Over*
2. *A Necessary End*

**Colin Campbell**

*Free Days with George*

**Shelly Shepard Gray**

1. *Amish of Hart County* series
2. *An Uncommon Protector*

**Mark Greaney**

1. *Gray Man* series
2. *Tom Clancy True Faith and Allegiance*

**James Grippando**

1. *Gone Again*
2. *Cash Landing*

**Nathan Hill**

*The Nix*

**Gregg Hurwitz**

1. *The Nowhere Man*
2. *Orphan X*

**Cassandra King**

1. *Moonrise*
2. *The Same Sweet Girls Guide to Life*

**Mary Kubica**

1. *Don't You Cry*
2. *Pretty Baby*

**Taya Kyle**

1. *American Wife: Love, War, Faith and Renewal*

**Craig Pittman**

1. *Oh, Florida!*
2. *The Scent of Scandal*

**Kimberla Lawson Roby**

1. *Copycat*
2. *A Sinful Calling*

**D. Watkins**

1. *The Cook Up: A Crack Memoir*
2. *The Beast Side*

**Susan Wiggs**

1. *The Family Tree*
2. *Passing through Paradise*

**Lori Wilde**

1. *Cupid, Texas* series
2. *Love of the Game*

**Beatriz Williams**

1. *The Wicked City*
2. *A Certain Age*

**CHILDREN'S AUTHORS**

**Candace Fleming**

1. *Muncha! Muncha! Muncha!*
2. *Giant Squid*

**Chris Grabenstein**

1. *Welcome to Wonderland: Home Sweet Motel*
2. *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*

**Grace Lin**

1. *When the Sea Turned Silver*
2. *Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same*

**Eric Rohmann**

1. *My Friend Rabbit*
2. *Bulldozer's Big Day*

**Tui Sutherland**

1. *The Dragonet Prophecy*
2. *Talons of Power*

**Salina Yoon**

1. *Penguin and Pinecone*
2. *Found*

**TEEN AUTHORS**

**Kami Garcia**

1. *Beautiful Creatures*
2. *The X-Files Origins: Agent of Chaos*

**S.J. Kincaid**

1. *Insignia*
2. *Diabolic*

**Michelle Knudsen**

1. *Evil Librarian*
2. *Dragon of Trelan*

**Sara Shepard**

1. *Pretty Little Liars*
2. *The Amateurs*