

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lee County Library System preview events kick off Southwest Florida Reading Festival

Fort Myers, FL, Jan. 6, 2020 – As a lead up to the 21st annual Southwest Florida Reading Festival, the Lee County Library System is hosting preview events at library branches across the county.

The Southwest Florida Reading Festival is a one-day event held on the campus of the Fort Myers Regional Library in downtown Fort Myers. This free, family-friendly event will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 7 at 2450 First St., Fort Myers.

In addition to the daylong community event, Lee County Library System invites everyone to attend the following preview programs:

Author Talk with Lisa Unger

2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27
North Fort Myers Public Library
2001 N. Tamiami Trail NE, North Fort Myers

2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28
Lakes Regional Library
15290 Bass Road, Fort Myers

Reading Festival author Lisa Unger will discuss her latest book, “The Stranger Inside.” Unger is a master of suspense and a New York Times and internationally best-selling author of 17 novels. Sponsored by Friends of the Lakes Regional and North Fort Myers Public Libraries.

Celebrate Dr. Seuss

11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 29
Cape Coral-Lee County Public Library
921 SW 39th Terrace, Cape Coral

Join Broadway and film actor Duffy Hudson in this fast-paced romp through the most loved and classic works of Dr. Seuss. Watch your favorite classics come to life in this unique and lively 45-minute show. This program is for the whole family and is guaranteed to warm your heart. Seating is first come, first served.

Meet Local Author Carol Freeman

3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 29
Cape Coral-Lee County Public Library
921 SW 39th Terrace, Cape Coral

Meet Carol Freeman, author of “The Cape Coral Caper: Murder on the Caloosahatchee” and “The Cape Coral Casanova: Murder on Crimson Court.” Hear some of the hilarious behind-the-scenes stories and enjoy a sneak preview of her newest book. A Q&A session will follow and books will be available for purchase and signing.

Local Author Day

1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 29
North Fort Myers Public Library
2001 N. Tamiami Trail NE, North Fort Myers

Meet local, independent authors, purchase their latest books and learn more about what inspires their work.

Author Spotlight: Inside the White House with Karna Bodman

2 p.m. Wednesday, March 4
Bonita Springs Public Library
10560 Reynolds St., Bonita Springs

Meet local author Karna Bodman and learn how she turned her experience as White House Deputy Press Secretary under Ronald Reagan and Senior Director and Spokesperson for the National Security Council into a series of international thrillers.

Author Spotlight: A Visit to the Morgue with Lisa Black

2 p.m. Thursday, March 5
Bonita Springs Public Library
10560 Reynolds St., Bonita Springs

Local author Lisa Black will share her experience working as a forensic scientist and crime scene investigator in South Florida. Learn how she develops her characters and stories based on the strange events she witnesses while on the job. She will also discuss her latest thriller, "Let Justice Descend," featuring fictional forensic expert Maggie Gardiner and Cleveland detective Jack Renner.

Author Talk with Chris Pavone

2 p.m. Thursday, March 5
Lakes Regional Library
15290 Bass Road, Fort Myers

11 a.m. Friday, March 6
South County Regional Library
21100 Three Oaks Parkway, Estero

Meet Chris Pavone, New York Times bestselling author of the international thrillers "The Travelers," "The Accident" and "The Expats," winner of the prestigious Edgar Award for Best First Novel. His newest book is titled "The Paris Diversion." Registration is required. Sponsored by Friends of Lakes and South County Regional Libraries.

Author Talk with Mary HoneyB Morrison

11 a.m. Friday, March 6
North Fort Myers Public Library
2001 N. Tamiami Trail NE, North Fort Myers

2 p.m. Friday, March 6
East County Regional Library
881 Gunnery Road, Lehigh Acres

Join Reading Festival author Mary HoneyB Morrison, New York Times and Wall Street Journal bestselling author, entertainer and entrepreneur for a discussion of her work. Registration is required.

Family Stories: Evoking Emotion in your Characters

2 p.m. Friday, March 6

South County Regional Library

21100 Three Oaks Parkway, Estero

This writing workshop will cover both the basics of story and the importance of genuine emotion in stories. It will also examine how writers achieve success in creating human emotion in contrast to why writers sometimes fail in this essential endeavor. Ample illustrations will be provided, some from Susan's novel, "Bells for Eli," and participants will be given writing prompts with feedback. "Bells for Eli" will be available for purchase. Registration is required. Sponsored by Friends of South County Regional Library.

ABOUT THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA READING FESTIVAL

The Southwest Florida Reading Festival is a family-friendly event that celebrates books and the written word. The Festival began in 1999 with the goals of emphasizing the importance of reading and bringing the finest literary talent to Southwest Florida. Now in its 21st year, this free festival has grown in popularity and averages 10,000 book-loving attendees annually. Some of the past authors include Sue Monk Kidd, Susan Mallery, R.L. Stine, Janet Evanovich, Nelson DeMille, Jeff Kinney and hundreds more.

The Reading Festival's objectives are to promote reading and literacy, increase awareness of the library's programs and resources and foster partnerships between the Lee County Library System and the community. It is also an opportunity to share with the community the available resources and services at their local Lee County libraries with a library card. The Reading Festival aims to build a literate community by encouraging children to develop an interest in reading independently, which fosters an increase in vocabulary and improved writing skills. For more information, go to www.ReadFest.org.

The Southwest Florida Reading Festival is free and community-supported through donations, sponsorships and grants. To help ensure the continuation of this free community event, please visit www.ReadFest.org to make a secure online donation. More information is available at www.ReadFest.org or by calling 239-533-4832.

ADA COMPLIANCE

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Lee County will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities in its services, programs or activities. To request an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or a reasonable modification to participate, contact Joan LaGuardia, 239-533-2314, Florida Relay Service 711, or jlaguardia@leegov.com. Accommodation will be provided at no cost to the requestor. Requests should be made at least five business days in advance.