

Topeka, Kan. – Washburn will host this year's Kansas Book Festival. The winner of the 2022 Hefner Heitz Kansas Book Award, Michael Kleber-Diggs, will read from his book, "Worldly Things" this Friday at 4 p.m. in Mabee Library. The presentation is the kick-off for the festival which will continue on Saturday. This event is free and open to the public.

When and Where: Friday, September 23 at 4:00 p.m. and continuing Saturday, September 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Mabee Library and the Washburn University campus.

Details: The Kansas Book Festival will include presentations by 60 authors, as well as outdoor performances, a book-art exhibit, food trucks, and exhibitor tents with publishers from around Kansas.

The headliner for the 2022 Kansas Book Festival is K.J. Dell'Antonia, author of her new novel *In Her Boots* and *The Chicken Sisters* (NYTimes Bestseller and Reese Book Club Pick). *In Her Boots* is about the gap between the adults we think we have become, the child our mother will always see and our horrible fear that our mother is right.

Other prominent authors include Michael Kleber-Diggs, 2022 Hefner Heitz Kansas Book Award Winner, a poet from the Twin Cities with a collection about the hazards and beauties of life as a Black man in contemporary America (*Worldly Things*); and Lucas Bessire, a writer, filmmaker, and

anthropologist, whose new book *Running Out* discusses the depletion of aquifer in Western Kansas.

In addition, there are popular books for kids, from critically acclaimed picture book author and illustrator Daniel Miyares with his new book *Hope at Sea*, which tells the tale of a girl named Hope who makes her first voyage across the sea. Author and illustrator Grant Snider is also joining the festival with his new picture book *One Boy Watching*. In this lyrical tribute to long rides and curious minds, author Grant Snider celebrates the extraordinary found within the ordinary, the fascinating hiding within the familiar, and the world of discovery awaiting all those who watch and wonder.

Notable authors Jen Mann and Nancy McCabe will also be at the festival for their presentation *Life's Hard: Laugh More*. The two humor writers will talk about the myriad irritations—and comedic opportunities—that go with living in contemporary America. Jen Mann is the author of *Midlife Bites*, a smart, personal, darkly funny examination of what it's like to be a woman at the crossroads of a midlife crisis, from the New York Times bestselling author of *People I Want to Punch in the Throat*. Nancy McCabe is the author of *Can This Marriage Be Saved?*, a warm, deeply-personal, and often humorous book, Nancy re-examines and gains new understanding of her early life and her ill-advised marriage.

The Kansas Book Festival will honor the 2022 Kansas Notable Books, to be selected by the Kansas State Library and awarded by Dr. Ted Daughety, husband of Kansas Governor Laura Kelly.