



Free admission and open to the general public

Author Presentations • Book Signings • Book Sales

Children's Activities • Entertainment • Food Trucks

www.kansasbookfestival.com

12TH ANNUAL KANSAS BOOK FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 16, 2023
Washburn University, Topeka



All presentations are free and open to the public, occurring in the Mabee Library at Washburn University or in the Memorial Union. Books can be purchased all day. Donations welcome.

12TH ANNUAL

KANSAS BOOK FESTIVAL

Pre-Festival Presentations

Thursday, September 14 at 7 pm



No Longer Separate – White Concert Hall, Washburn U

Lawrence Goldstone, acclaimed author and NPR commentator, addresses the American struggle against racial segregation, based on his book *Separate No More: The Long Road to Brown v. Board of Education*.

Friday, September 15 at 4 pm



Resurrection City – Mabee Library Lounge

Catherine Browder, winner of the 2023 Hefner Heitz Kansas Book Award, shares from her collection of stories, which takes us back to the 2011 triple disaster that devastated Northeastern Japan – earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear meltdown.

Main Festival Presentations

Saturday, September 16

9 am **Celebrating Seventy Years of the Best Children's Books – Memorial Union, Kansas Room**

Beverly Buller, chairperson of the William Allen White Children's Book Award, introduces this state prize, a selected author, and how kids can help choose winners. *(Kid Friendly)*

Poets In Praise of Prairie – Mabee Library, Room 303

Wild Words, a chapbook by Humanities Kansas, reconnects Kansans to the prairie through poetry. Join editor Megan Kaminski in conversation with poets Canese Jarboe, Aubrey Streit Krug, Huascar Medina, Janice Northern, and Wyatt Townley. Moderator: HK Director of Grants, Leslie VonHolten.

Kansas Notable Books – Mabee Library Lounge

15 Notable Book Awards are presented to standout Kansas authors by State Librarian Ray Walling, including fiction, poetry, nonfiction, and children's books.

Literature of Crisis – Mabee Library, Room 300

Fiction thrives on conflict, but when set during times of crisis, character is doubly tested. Join K.L. Barron (*Thirst*, Africa, political violence), Catherine Browder (*Resurrection City*, Japan, earthquake/tsunami/nuclear meltdown), and Susan Kraus (*When We Lost Touch*, United States, Covid) for a discussion of writing that grows out of extreme conditions. Moderator: KSU English Prof, Michele Janette.

10 am **Why We Travel – Memorial Union, Washburn Rooms A & B**

Pulitzer finalist Chloe Cooper Jones (*Easy Beauty*) talks with veteran travel writer Rolf Potts (*The Vagabond's Way*) about the philosophical underpinnings of taking journeys, and how travelers might endeavor to seek "difficult beauty" on the road. Moderator: Travel writer Jon Arlan.

First Books for First Readers – Mabee Library, Room 300

Three authors of books that introduce the alphabet (Yanfei Gao, *ABC Dinosaurs*), space travel (Stephen T. Johnson, *My Big Silver Rocketship*), and the changing seasons (Sue Gallion, *Our Seasons*) talk with parents and children about tangible learning. Moderator: Angie Grau, Owner of Paper June Bookstore. *(Kid Friendly)*

Childhood through a Different Lens – Memorial Union, Kansas Room

Jenn Bailey, author of popular books about a boy with autism (*A Friend for Henry and Henry*, *Like Always*), talks with parents and kids about how children can cope with mental health issues, supporting peers who struggle. Moderator: Media Specialist Tonya Foster with Student Isabella Culbertson. *(Kid Friendly)*

Strangers at Home – Mabee Library, Room 303

James Davis (*Club Q*), who is a gay poet from a conservative Christian family, discusses estrangement with Jesse Nathan (Eggtooth), a poet of Jewish and Mennonite parentage who grew up in Berkeley, California and a farm in south-central Kansas. Moderator: Former Kansas Poet Laureate: Eric McHenry.

35 Outdoor Tent Exhibitors

These vendors and others are on the lawn in front of the Washburn Memorial Union:

- Regional publishers such as University Press of Kansas or Meadowlark Press
- Nonprofits such as The Kansas Authors Club or the State Library of Kansas
- Authors with new books such as Violeta Cornett with *My Aunt Flor*, a bilingual picture book
- The Ichabod Store with festival merchandise and books from all featured authors
- Paper June Bookstore with books for kids

Outdoor Performances

- 9 am – Topeka Suzuki Strings (children on strings)
- 10 am – Zydeco Tougeau (Louisiana-style dance music)
- 11 am – Blues Healer Band
- 12 pm – Luke Bascom and the End Times (folk rock)
- 1 pm – With a Twist (blues, jump, rock & roll, and r&b)
- 2 pm – Kyler Carpenter and Kid Performers

Book Art Exhibitions

- Mabee Library Entrance – *You are What You Ate*: Author-illustrator Marilyn Pollack Naron
- Back Wall of Mabee Library – "Art and Books: A Kansas Conversation"

Food Trucks

Available in the parking area between the football stadium and the performance tent.

- All beef hotdogs, chili nachos, & sandwiches at DJ's Catering
- Mexican fare from K-Tacos

Children's Activity Tent

- Creative activities by Paper June, Mulvane ArtLab, and others

SEPTEMBER 16,

2023 PANEL SCHEDULE

11 am **Shaping a Book with a Shovel and Ruler – Memorial Union, Washburn Rooms A & B**

Mike Ciccotello, winner of the 2023 Bill Martin, Jr. Picture Book Award, talks about the journey of *Beach Toys vs. School Supplies* from idea to book. Moderator: Emporia Education Professor Heather Caswell. *(Kid Friendly)*

Land and Legacy – Mabee Library, Room 300

Two writers talk about Kansas communities with different legacies. Kate Benz (*Nothing but the Dirt*) reports on Courtland, a north-central community unwilling to give up on itself. Raylene Hinz-Penner (*East of Liberal*), describes a southwestern Mennonite community still coming to terms with tensions between land ownership and former inhabitants. Moderator: Joshua Falleaf, Lenape Citizen, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce.

Suicide in our Midst – Memorial Union, Kansas Room

Two respected authors talk about the alarming increase in suicides from a personal perspective, having survived actual attempts (Clancy Martin, *How Not to Kill Yourself*) or having lived under the shadow of multiple suicides (Juliet Patterson, *Sinkhole*). Moderator: Poet Michael Kleber-Diggs.

Poetry, Collaboration, & Therapy – Mabee Library, Room 303

Poets Dennis Etzel, Jr. (*Everything is Ephemera*), Jericho M. Hockett (*In the Bodies*), and Annie Klier Newcomer (*Comets: Relationships That Wander*), plus artist Barbara Waterman-Peters, discuss the therapeutic benefits of creative collaboration, particularly with the anthology *Kansas Speaks Out: Poems in the Age of Me, Too*.

Keynote (Memorial Union, Washburn Rooms A & B)

12 pm **IMAGINATION SET LOOSE: LING MA'S PRIZE-WINNING SPECULATIVE STORIES**

Ling Ma, winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for fiction, shares from her acclaimed collection—*Bliss Montage*—and discusses why she is drawn toward stories that don't conform to the rules of realism. Moderator: Radio host Kaye McIntyre. Sponsor: Kansas Public Radio.

1 pm **Why We Love Baseball – Memorial Union, Washburn Rooms A & B**

Baseball gurus Joe Posnanski (*Why We Love Baseball: A History in 50 Moments*) and Bill James (*The Bill James Handbook 2023*) converse about their favorite subject and why it is their favorite! Moderator: Library Director Brad Allen. Sponsor: Lawrence Public Library.

Stranger than Reality – Memorial Union, Kansas Room

A Turkish garbage collector rescues throwaway musicians and forms a clandestine orchestra. A volcano erupts in New York's Central Park, impossible to ignore as it towers higher. Hear two rising fiction writers—Kenan Orhan and JES (John Elizabeth Stintzi)—discuss the power of speculative storytelling. Moderator: fiction writer Andy Farkas.

Girl Go-Getters in Middle Grade Novels – Mabee Library, Room 300

The author of a historical novel set in Kansas (Kathleen Wilford, *Cabby Potts, Duchess of Dirt*) compares notes with the Kansas-based author of a contemporary fantasy (Sarah Henning, *Monster Camp*) written for the same age group, 8-12 year olds. Moderator: award-winning storyteller Priscilla Howe. *(Kid Friendly)*

Crafting Community Through Poetry – Mabee Library, Room 303

How is community created and supported through poetry? Poets laureate from Kansas (Traci Brimhall) and Missouri (Maryfrances Wagner) discuss their experiences as workshop leaders, and event organizers, also their involvement with literary centers. Moderator: Award-winning poet Michael Kleber-Diggs.

50 Authors, Including...



Chloe Cooper Jones



Ling Ma



Mike Ciccotello



Joe Posnanski



Candice Millard



Kenan Orhan



Amy Brady

2 pm **Seeking the Source—Memorial Union, Washburn Rooms A & B**
 NYTimes bestselling author Candice Millard talks about her latest work of history, *River of the Gods*, which follows three 19th-century explorers on their harrowing search for the headwaters of the Nile. Moderator: Historian Sonja Czarnecki. Sponsor: Johnson County Pub. Library.

Black Leadership and Influences—Mabee Library, Room 302
 Maryemma Graham (*The House Where My Soul Lives: The Life of Margaret Walker*) and Margie Carr (*Kansas City's Montgall Avenue*) explore the traditions and the lives of leaders instrumental in creating social, literary, and cultural institutions supporting Black communities. Moderator: Darren Canady, KU English Department. Sponsor: Paper Plains Lit Fest.

3 pm **Ice and Us—Memorial Union, Kansas Room**
 Amy Brady, Executive Director of the popular environmental magazine *Orion*, talks about her new book—*Ice: From Mixed Drinks to Skating Rinks, a Cool History of a Hot Commodity*. How has the consumption of ice evolved and what are the possible consequences? Moderator: Rex Buchanan, Director Emeritus, Kansas Geological Survey. Sponsor: Men of Grace Discussion Group.

Sustaining the Small Press—Mabee Library, Room 302
 Editors Maureen Carroll (Anamcara Press), Dan Hoyt (American Buffalo Books), and Jason Ryberg (Spartan Press) talk with Brian Daldorph (Coal City Press) about the aspirations, frustrations, and joys of the small literary publisher.

New Takes on YA Classics—Mabee Library, Room 300
 Having published YA novels that get us re-thinking *Little Women* and *Anne of Green Gables*, Amanda Sellet (*Belittled Women*) and Julie Sellers (*Ann of Sunflower Lane*) discuss why they have dared to return to those standard-bearers from new vantage points. Moderator: Children's author Roderick Townley.

Small-Town Kansas Re-Imagined—Mabee Library, Room 303
 In a murder mystery set along the dried-up Arkansas River, Charles Jones defies the stereotype of small-town simplicity, while DeMisty Bellinger depicts three distinctive women, living in the same town but decades apart, who must fight for their own love and agency. Moderator: Cheryl Duffy, Director of Writing, Ft. Hays St. University.

Literary Gymnastics for YA Book Lovers—Mabee Library, Room 300
 One gymnast tries out new sports and falls in love (*It's All in How You Fall* by Sarah Henning). Another discovers she can vault right out of the present moment (*Vaulting through Time* by Nancy McCabe). Both authors describe why sports figure heavily in their YA novels. Moderator: Margo Moore, Teen Librarian at Lawrence Library.

Well-Baked Words—Mabee Library, Room 303
 NYTimes Bestselling author Erin Jeanne McDowell (*Savory Baking*), Traci Brimhall (Kansas Poet Laureate), and Marcia Cebulka (*Lovers, Dreamers & Thieves*) discuss food and food culture from the perspectives of the cookbook, the poem, and the memoir. Come hungry, leave hungrier. Moderator: Tom Averill, Washburn Emeritus Professor.

Child-Friendly & Youth Events

9 am to 2pm	Hands-on Activities hosted by Paper June Bookstore—Children's Tent	10 am	Childhood Through a Different Lens—Memorial Union, Kansas Room
9 am	• Topeka Suzuki Strings—Performance Tent	10:45 & 11:45 am	Curious George Meet & Greet + Storytime—Children's Tent
	• Celebrating 70 Years of The Best Children's Books—Memorial Union, Kansas Room	1 pm	• Topeka High School Poetry Slam—Mabee Library Lounge
	• First Books for First Readers—Mabee Library, Room 300		• Girl Go-Getters in Middle Grade Novels—Mabee Library, Room 300
10 am to 1 pm	Making Bookmarks with J. Marable and Mulvane ArtLab—Children's Tent	2 pm	• Children performers with Librarian/Musician Kyler Carpenter—Performance Tent
			• Kansas Authors Club Youth Writing Awards—Mabee Library Lounge

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Sam and Mary Brownback Fund



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