

KANSAS



BOOK FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 FROM 9 A.M.-4 P.M.
WASHBURN UNIVERSITY, TOPEKA



www.kansasbookfestival.com

Free Admission and Open to the General Public

Author Presentations • Book Signings • Book Sales
Children's Activities • Entertainment • Food Trucks



KANSAS BOOK FESTIVAL 2024 PANEL SCHEDULE



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

PRE-FESTIVAL PRESENTATIONS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 & FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

SEPTEMBER 23
7:00 PM



Raft of Stars

White Concert Hall

Author Andrew Graff speaks about the sources of his highly praised novel *Raft of Stars*, including the Northwoods of Wisconsin where his two boy protagonists flee down a river, fearing they have murdered someone and not realizing they are eluding adults who could protect them.

SEPTEMBER 27
4:30 PM



Words Is a Powerful Thing

University Library 118

Brian Daldorph, winner of the 2024 Hefner Heitz Kansas Book Award, talks about the remarkable creativity of incarcerated authors he has taught over the last 20 years at the Douglas County Jail, Kansas.

MAIN FESTIVAL PRESENTATIONS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

9:00-10:00 AM

Black Sheep, Prodigals, Family Troubles

University Library 221

Join novelists Cate Browder (*The Manning Girl*), Robert Rebein (*The Last Rancher*), and Al Ortolani (*Bull in the Ring*) for a discussion of how family dynamics and history determine character and propel plot, whether in NE, SW, or SE Kansas.

How the 80's Rocked Us

University Library 119

Nebraska Poet Laureate Matt Mason (*Rock Stars*) and celebrated essayist Paul Crenshaw (*Melt With Me: Coming of Age and Other '80s Perils*) discuss the decade that shaped them and their writing—its music, iconography, and ideas of boyhood and manhood. Moderator: poet Dennis Etzel, Jr.

There Are No Noncombatants

University Library 118

Relying on imagination and historical research, former PBS NewsHour anchor Elizabeth Farnsworth (*Last Light*) and novelist Theodore Wheeler (*The War Begins in Paris*) have produced realistic novels of love, betrayal, and morality in the shadow of World War II. Moderator: historian Sonja Czarnecki.

109 Years of Wisdom

University Library 120

Veteran columnist David Von Drehle (*The Book of Charlie*), who is endorsed by actor Tom Hanks, talks about lessons learned from a remarkable Kansas City doctor who lived over a century. Moderator: Physician Scott Teeter.

Picture Books and the Emerging Self

Alumni Center Forum Room

Come hear Giselle Anatol (*Small-Girl Toni and the Quest for Gold*) and Jo Renfro (*Peg Gets Crackin'*) talk about ways that their books encourage toddlers and early readers to step forward into the world. Moderator: Children's Librarian Alice Reinert.

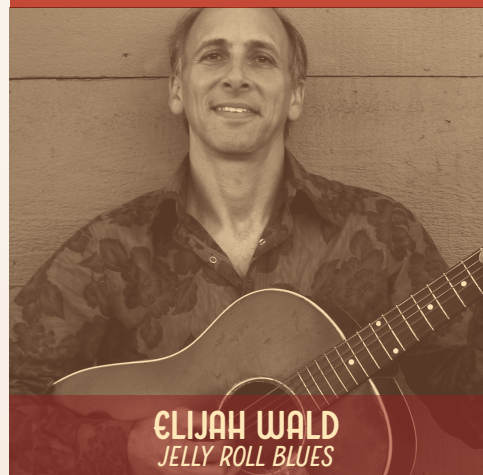


CHLOE CHUN SEIM
CHURN



SARA PARETSKY
PAY DIRT

FEATURED



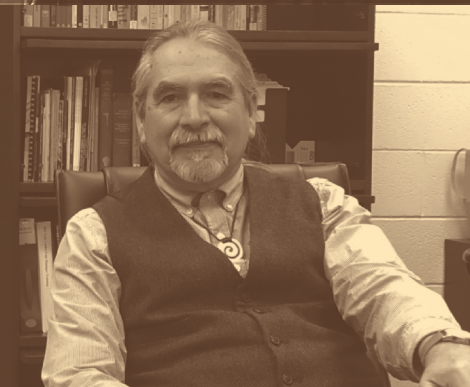
ELIJAH WALD
JELLY ROLL BLUES



ANGELA CERVANTES
THE CURSED MOON



ALEX GRECIAN
RED RABBIT



DANIEL WILDCAT
INDIGNITY

SPEAKERS



ELIZABETH FARNSWORTH
LAST LIGHT



DAVID VON DREHLE
THE BOOK OF CHARLIE

10:30-11:30 AM

Mysteries: Cozy or Cold-Blooded?

University Library 119

Mystery writers M.A. Monnin (*Death in St. George's*) and Rebecca McKanna (*Don't Forget the Girl*) discuss the benefits and hazards of sheltering readers from suffering or taking them right into it. Moderator: novelist Cathleen Bascom.

Building Worlds of Words

University Library 221

Join poets Trish Reeves (*The Receipt*) and Robert Stewart (*Higher*) as they discuss how defining details create the world anew, showing readers contemporary relevance in the historical past. Moderator: H.C. Palmer.

Hidden Histories of the Blues

Alumni Center Convocation Room

Grammy-winner Elijah Wald (*Jelly Roll Blues*) and Patrick Joseph O'Connor (*Wichita Blues*) talk about two overlooked musical traditions—the censored “dirty” blues of the early 1900s and the Midwestern blues of the midcentury. Moderator: poet and essayist Eric McHenry.

11:15 AM-12:15 PM

Breaking the Fictional Mold

University Library 120

Three respected experimental authors talk about speculative ways they re-approach gender, animal life, and more: Andy Farkas (*Are You Now, or Have You Ever Been?*), Kij Johnson (*The Privilege of the Happy Ending*), and Izzy Wasserstein (*These Fragile Graces, This Fugitive Heart*).

Facing Fear in Middle-Grade Years

Alumni Center Forum Room

A mother about to be released from prison. An anxious son. A ghost story that feels too real. Come hear celebrated author Angela Cervantes (*The Cursed Moon*) talk with moderator Cheryl Rios about youthful fears, both real and imagined.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

12-1 PM

V.I. Warshawski Comes to Kansas

Alumni Center Convocation Room

Sara Paretsky is NYTimes Bestselling author of a crime series featuring legendary detective V.I. Warshawski. Hear her speak with Kaye McIntyre, KPR Radio Host, about her latest novel, *Pay Dirt*, which brings Warshawski back to Kansas, Paretsky's own home state. Sponsor: Kansas Public Radio.

12:45-1:45 PM

First Readers and Feelings

Alumni Center Forum Room

Jody Jensen Shaffer (*Sometimes I Am Hot Lava*) and Bridget Heos (*I'm a Virus*) discuss how kids can manage anger and frustration plus the fears that go with viruses, or worse, work. Parents, educators, and caregivers welcome. Moderator: Laura Burton, from the Kansas Children's Discovery Center.

Poetry in Midlife

University Library 119

Poets Lisa Hase-Jackson (*Insomnia in Another Town*), Jericho M. Hockett (*In the Bodies*), and Melissa Fite Johnson (*Midlife Abecedarian*) discuss why it's important to celebrate and contemplate this transformative time in life—and why they don't consider “midlife” a crisis.

CHILD-FRIENDLY & YOUTH EVENTS

9 AM

9 - 11 AM

Topeka Suzuki Strings—Performance Tent

Kansas Children's Discovery Center: Bubbles and Roller Coaster Engineering—Children's Tent

10 - 10:15 AM

Reading from Brad Sneed (*After a While, Crocodile*)—Children's Tent

11 AM - 1 PM

Mulvane ArtLab and Children's Art Project—Children's Tent

11 - 11:15 AM

Reading from Jo Renfro (*Peg Gets Crackin'*)—Children's Tent

12 - 12:15 PM

Reading from Giselle Anatol (*Small-Girl Toni & the Quest for Gold*)—Children's Tent

1 - 3 PM

Making book art with Lawrence Public Library Friends & Foundation

1-2 PM

Use Your Words: Teen Open Mic—Library Lounge

2-3 PM

Youth Writing Awards from Kansas Authors Club—Library Lounge

2-4 PM

Youth Performers with Kyler Carpenter—Performance Tent

40 OUTDOOR TENT EXHIBITORS

These vendors and others are in the parking lot next to the Washburn University Library:

- Regional publishers such as University Press of Kansas, Meadowlark Press, Flint Hills Publishing, Anamcara, Alternating Current and Nebraska University Press
- Nonprofits such as The Kansas Authors Club or the State Library of Kansas
- Authors with new books, including: Erin Beatty and a popular fantasy trilogy, Cathy Callen with the picture book *A Packrat Named Orange*, and the authors of *Abolitionist of the Most Dangerous Kind* (about a prominent Kansas Jayhawker fighting slavery during the Civil War)
- Vendors with book art, too!

OUTDOOR PERFORMANCES

- 9 AM Suzuki Strings (children on strings)
- 10 AM Zydeco Tougeau (Louisiana-style dance music)
- 11 AM Sally and the Hurts (Americana roots music)
- 12 PM Jed Zeplin (Bluegrass music)
- 1 PM Elijah Wald and Patrick O'Connor (blues music)
- 2 PM Kyler Carpenter and Youth
- 3 PM Performers

FOOD TRUCKS

Available in the parking area next to the new Washburn University Library.

- Tod's BBQ
- La Creperie Co. (Savory & Sweet Crepes)
- Grounded on the Go (Coffee)
- Manila Snow Cone

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY TENT

- Creative activities organized by Kansas Children's Discovery Center, Mulvane ArtLab, and a book artist with Lawrence Public Library Friends
- Children's books for sale from Paper June

1:30-2:30 PM

Love and Grief

University Library 118

Amy Stuber, author of a story collection with characters who plumb the depths of personal loss (*Sad Grownups*), talks with poet Mary Pinard, whose new collection (*Ghost Heart*) is shaped by the death of her spouse. Moderator: grief therapist and author, Joy Bishop.

Kingdom Quarterback

Alumni Center Convocation Room

Mark Dent & Rustin Dodd (co-authors of *Kingdom Quarterback*) discuss how the success of Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs has brought new life to a city with a flyover reputation. Moderator: Paul Carr, veteran sports researcher at TruMedia.

Pictures + Stories = Delight!

University Library 120

Christopher Denise, winner of the 2024 Bill Martin, Jr. Picture Book Award, describes how his beloved Knight Owl came into being, and veteran author/illustrator Brad Sneed (*After a While, Crocodile*) explains the interplay of art and story that goes into picture books. Moderator: Emporia Education Professor Heather Caswell.

2:15-3:15 PM

Relational Shifts and Shifting Realms

University Library 119

Chloe Chun Seim (*Churn*) and Natalie Parker (*Come Out, Come Out*) discuss the relational power of peer stories that combine realism and fantasy, also exploring gender fluidity. Moderator: Margo Moore, Lawrence Teen Librarian.

Indigenous Wisdom

University Library 221

Dan Wildcat's *On Indigenuity* speaks to how traditional Indigenous wisdom can help us repair our relationship with earth, air, and water. Moderator: Dr. Melinda Adams, KU professor of Geography, Atmospheric Science, & Indigenous Studies. Sponsor: Men of Grace Discussion Group.

Lab Leaks, Pandemics, and Us

Alumni Center Forum Room

Alison Young (*Pandora's Gamble*) is an award-winning journalist who goes deep into the troubling history and risks of accidents at scientific labs. Moderator: KU Journalism professor, Patricia Gaston.

3:00-4:00 PM

A Western Doubletake

Alumni Center Convocation Room

Alex Grecian (*Red Rabbit*) & John Mort (*Oklahoma Odyssey*) converse with Western novelist Max McCoy about new takes on Westerns, from the haunted landscape of a witch hunt to an anti-revenge plot set during the Cherokee Outlet land rush.

And You Thought You Knew KU

University Library 118

Join Rebecca Schulte (*The Jayhawk*) and Curtis Marsh (*KU-Phoria*) as they recount the fun and fascinating yet little-known history and trivia about KU and the Jayhawk mascot. Moderator: Editor of KU Alumni Magazine, Jennifer Jackson Sanner. Sponsor: University of Kansas Alumni Association.

Collaborative Writing, From Voice to Page

University Library 120

Join Dr. Walt Menninger (*Like What You Do*), his collaborator Todd Fertig, and publisher Thea Rademacher (Flint Hills Publishing) as they talk about all the collaborations that make a memoir, from telling to writing, and from editing to publishing.

KANSAS BOOK FESTIVAL SPONSORS

Main Festival Sponsors—\$2,600-20,000:



HUMANITIES
KANSAS



Mabee Library



Bestseller Sponsors: \$1,000-2,500

- Arts Connect
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