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KANSAS
BOOK FESTIVAL

Kansas

BOOK FESTIVAL

14TH ANNUAL

EVENT DETAILS

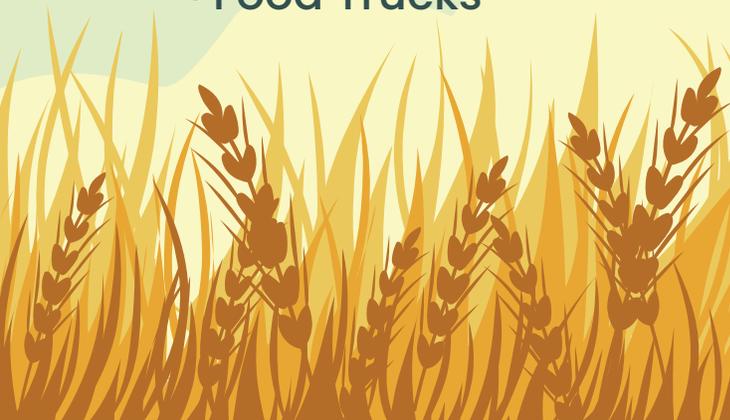
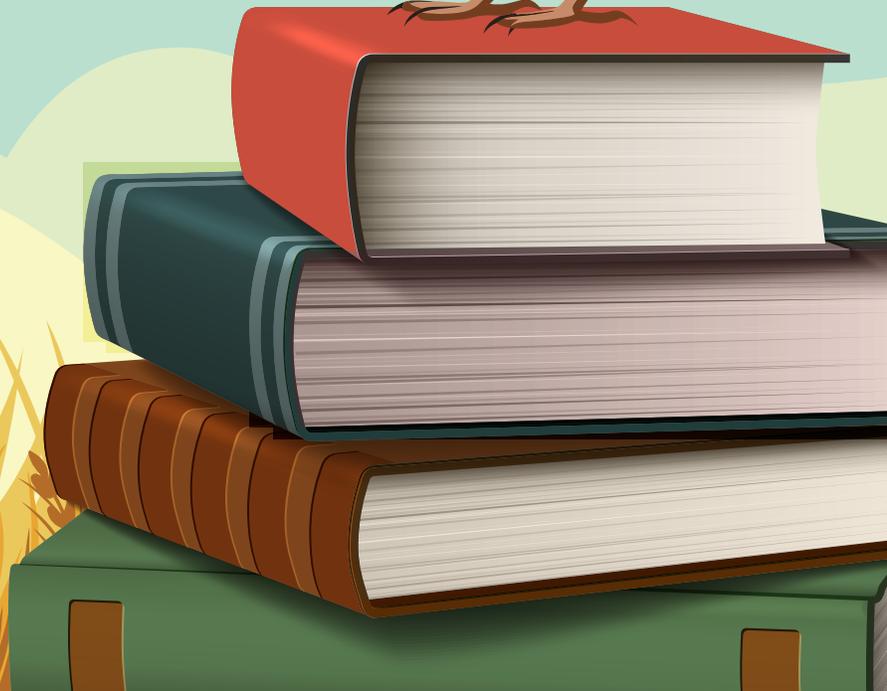
Sept. 20, 2025

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Washburn University Library
Topeka, Kansas

ACTIVITIES

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



All presentations occur in the Washburn Library or Alumni Center. Books can be purchased all day. Donations welcome.

40 OUTDOOR TENT EXHIBITORS

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

- Regional publishers such as University Press of Kansas, Meadowlark Press, Flint Hills Publishing, Anamcara and Nebraska University Press.
- Nonprofits such as The Kansas Authors Club or the State Library of Kansas
- Authors with new books, including: Children's author and illustrator Lindsey Yankey, crime and suspense author Yvette Walker, fantasy author Sarah Edgerton, and award-winning poet Judy Juanita.
- Vendors with book art, too!

OUTDOOR PERFORMANCES

- 9 AM Suzuki Strings
- 10 AM Zydeco Tougeau
- 11 AM The Church Ladies
- 12 PM Jed Zeplin
- 1 PM Patrick O'Connor
- 2 PM Kyler Carpenter and Youth Performers

FOOD TRUCKS

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

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

KID-FRIENDLY & YOUTH EVENTS

- 9 AM Topeka Suzuki Strings – Performance Tent
- 9–11 AM Kansas Children's Discovery Center: Bubbles and Roller Coaster Engineering – Activity Tent
- 10–10:15 AM Picture-book reading from a featured children's author – Activity Tent
- 11 AM Mulvane ArtLab & Children's Art Project – Activity Tent
- 11–11:15 AM Picture-book reading from a featured children's author – Activity Tent
- 12–12:15 PM Picture-book reading from a featured children's author – Activity Tent
- 1–3 PM Making book art with Lawrence Public Library Friends & Foundation – Activity Tent
- 2–3 PM Youth Writing Awards from Kansas Authors Club – Library Lounge
- 2–4 PM Youth Performers with Kyler Carpenter – Performance Tent

Kansas BOOK FESTIVAL

14TH ANNUAL

2025 PANEL SCHEDULE
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

PRE-FESTIVAL PRESENTATIONS

MON., SEPT. 15 AT 7 PM



The Princess Will Save You

White Concert Hall

Author Sarah Henning speaks about the role of story and storytelling, the tensions that exist between generations, and the allure of fantasy.

FRI., SEPT. 19 AT 4 PM



Eggtooth

Plass Library 120

Jesse Nathan discusses and reads from *Eggtooth*, the poetry collection for which he has received the 2025 Hefner Heitz Kansas Book Award.

MAIN FESTIVAL PRESENTATIONS

9 AM SESSIONS

The Art of the Cartoon

Plass Library 118

Grant Snider (*Thinking about Thinking*) and political cartoonist Greg Kearney swap stories about the relationship between words and drawings. Moderator: Clay Wirestone, Opinion Editor, Kansas Reflector.

Ad Astra: Emergencies, Emergences and Restorations

Plass Library 119

Join memoir writers Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg (*The Magic Eye*) and Craig Yorke (*Steep: A Black Neurosurgeon's Journey*), plus novelist Ruth Maus (*Lunacy and Acts of God*), in an honest conversation focused on writing about struggles and successes.

Breaking Form / Building New

Plass Library 120

Canese Jarboe (*Sissy*) and Matt Porubsky (*Stand in Old Light*) discuss how dismantling poetic forms can build a broader view of Kansas. Moderator: poet Hyejung Kook.

10 AM SESSIONS

Who's In? Who's Out?

Plass Library 221

Two authors of middle-grade novels, Anne Rellihan (*Not the Worst Friend in the World*) and Kristin Gray (*The Amelia Six*), discuss friendship themes. Moderator: Librian Andrea Norman. Sponsor: Topeka Public Schools Foundation.

Out of the Shadows

Plass Library 118

Holly Baggett (*Making No Compromise*) and Iris Jamahl Dunkle (*Riding Like the Wind*) discuss Jane Heap and Sanora Babb—Kansas women who shaped modern literature & never got their due. Moderator: Kara Kendall-Morwick, Washburn University.

Finding Words for It

Plass Library 119

Poets Traci Brimhall (*Love Prodigal*) and Sarah Green (*The Deletions*), examine divorce, illness, trauma, and healing with un-common lyricism. Moderator: poet Melissa Fite Johnson.

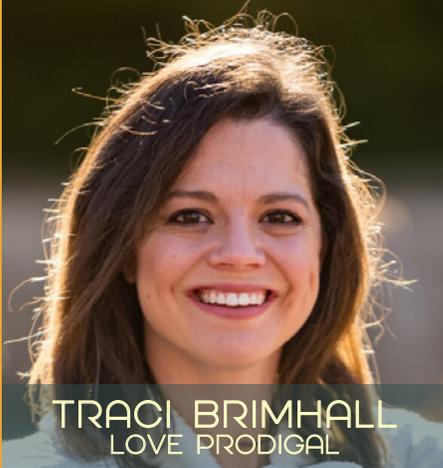
10AM SESSIONS CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



KEVIN YOUNG
NIGHT WATCH



BESS KALB
BUFFALO FLUFFALO

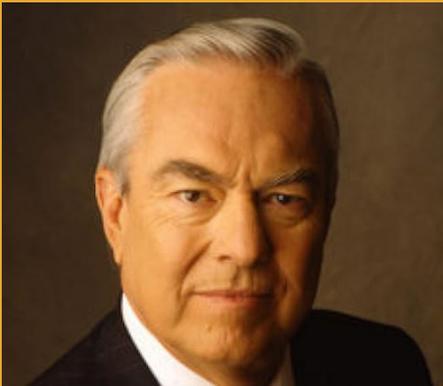


TRACI BRIMHALL
LOVE PRODIGAL



LAURIE DOVE
MASK OF THE DEER WOMAN

FEATURED SPEAKERS



BILL KURTIS
WHIRLWIND



LESA CLINE-RANSOME
ONE BIG OPEN SKY



GRANT SNIDER
THINKING ABOUT THINKING



BRYN GREENWOOD
NOBODY KNOWS YOU'RE HERE

10 AM SESSIONS (CONT.)

Kansas Matters: 21st-Century Writers on the Sunflower State

Plass Library 120

Join Thomas Fox Averill and Leslie VonHolten as they launch a new anthology about Kansas, with contributors Josh Svaty, Jesse Nathan, Jeffrey Ann Goudie, Michael Kleber-Diggs, and Kelly Erby.

11 AM SESSIONS

New Settler Stories for New Readers

Plass Library 221

Lesa Cline-Ransome (*One Big Open Sky*) and Susan Lynn Meyer (*A Sky Full of Song*) talk about ex-slaves and Ukrainian refugees migrating to 19th Century Kansas and North Dakota. Moderator: Librarian Alice Reinert. Sponsor: Delta Kappa Gamma.

Creating Reality

Plass Library 118

Suspense novelist Bryn Greenwood (*Nobody Knows You're Here*) talks with sci-fi novelist Silvia Park (*Luminous*) about creating believable reality in current U.S. society and futuristic Korea. Moderator: Joanne Janssen, Baker University.

Watery Ways

Plass Library 119

George Frazier (*Riverine Dreams*) and James Locklear (*In the Country of the Kaw*) share personal stories of the history and ecology of grassland rivers. Moderator: author Leslie VonHolten. Sponsor: Men of Grace.

The Home Team

Plass Library 120

Good friends Ed Skoog (*Travelers Leaving for the City*) and Cyrus Console (*The Wayfarer*) talk about their poetry, starting life in Topeka, and the value of literary friendships. Moderator: Evan McHenry, Literature-loving Brown University Graduate.

KEYNOTE 12 PM

FOR GOD'S SAKE TAKE COVER

Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center

Bill Kurtis, who made his broadcasting start in Topeka, covering the 1966 tornado, will talk about his memoir *Whirlwind*. Moderator: Melissa Brunner, news co-anchor, WIBW. Sponsor: Humanities Kansas

1 PM SESSIONS

Buffalo Fluffalo

Class Library 221

Bess Kalb, whose picture book about a vain young buffalo won the 2025 Bill Martin Jr. Picture Book Award, talks about using humor when writing for kids—a big shift from writing comedy for the Jimmy Kimmel Show. Moderator: Heather Caswell, Emporia State.

Fierce Hoops

Class Library 118

For 31 years, Marian Washington coached KU women's basketball, described as the "Jackie Robinson of college women's basketball coaching." Hear from her memoir *Fierce* and from star player Lynette Woodard. Moderator: Maggie Mahood, former KU assistant coach. Sponsor: KU Alumni Association.

A Critical Moment

Class Library 119

Kate Tuttle—books editor of the Boston Globe and former president of the National Book Critics Circle—talks about the role of the reviewer in the digital age. Moderator: Eric McHenry, former Kansas Poet Laureate.

Border-Crossing Fictions

Class Library 120

Laurie Dove (*Mask of the Deer Woman*) and Tim Bascom (*Continental Drift*) discuss how they bring their own complicated histories to stories that cross cultural borders. Moderator: fiction author Cate Browder.

2 PM SESSIONS

Disability Visibility

Class Library 221

Award-winning novelist, Gretchen Schreiber (*Ellie Haycock is Totally Normal*), and award-winning memoirist, Louise Krug (*How to Explain*), discuss books that draw on their unique experiences with disability. Moderator: KPR commentator Kaye McIntyre.

Seeing Red

Class Library 118

Rachel McCarthy James (*Whack Job: A History of Axe Murder*) describes the challenges and unexpected rewards of writing about the horrific. Moderator: Kara Heitz, media producer and professor, Kansas City Art Institute.

Blacks Against Brown

Class Library 119

An important new book by Topeka native Charise L. Cheney examines the conflict within the city's Black community over school desegregation. Moderator: Beryl New, former Director of Equity Council, Topeka Schools.

Classics Remixed

Class Library 120

Tales of Dionysus is an off-beat "group translation" of the longest Greek epic poem, and *Day After the Waste Land* is T.S. Eliot's masterpiece relocated to Lawrence, KS. Hear translator Jonathan Mayhew and poet Will Averill discuss giving those classics a makeover. Moderator: author Mark Luce.

3 PM SESSIONS

Picture Books Dealing with Loss & Grief

Class Library 221

Anitra Rowe Schulte (*Willow and Bunny*) talks with Scott Emmons and illustrator Stacey Lamb (*Hope and the Winds of Grief*) about helping kids move through difficult experiences. Moderator: Anuja Madan, Children's Literature Professor, KSU.

Ancient Myths/Modern Fantasies

Class Library 118

A debut novelist draws on ancient myths of the four seasons (*Amy Avery, The Longest Autumn*), while another builds a whole series around an invented school of magic (*Shami Stovall, Astra Academy Series*). Moderator: Librarian Margo Moore.

Kansas Natural Wonders

Class Library 119

Two author/photographer teams share about Kansas landscapes (*Landscapes of Kansas* by Keith Miller and Scott Bean) and Kansas birds (*The Guide to Kansas Birds and Birding Hotspots* by Pete Janzen and Bob Gress). Moderator: filmmaker Dave Kendall.

A Tribute to Jonathan Holden

Class Library 120

Kansas's first poet laureate, who passed away in 2024, mentored generations of writers during his decades at K-State. Poets Amy Fleury, Kevin Rabas, and Ed Skoog tell stories about their teacher and share favorite poems.

BONUS FEATURE

SUN., SEPT. 21 AT 2:30 PM



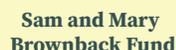
Sunday Afternoon with Kevin Young

Lawrence Public Library, Auditorium

The New Yorker poetry editor and former director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture shares poems from his brand-new collection, *Night Watch*. Sponsors: Lawrence Public Library and Humanities Kansas.

KANSAS BOOK FESTIVAL SPONSORS

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



Bestseller Sponsors: \$1,000–2,500

- Arts Connect
- Kansas Public Radio
- Polo Custom Products
- Security Benefit
- Men of Grace Discussion Group
- Jane and Russell Greene
- Hurst Coffman
- Cindy and Mark Roupe
- Susan and Kent Garlinghouse
- KMWU Radio
- Topeka Public Schools Foundation
- Ted Daughety
- Delta Kappa Gamma Society
- WIBW-TV

Bookend Sponsors: \$500–900

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