

# *Island Booknotes 2022-23*

VOLUME 3

ISSUE 1

A TIMELESS TRADITION OF LITERATURE & CULTURE



PUBLISHED BY  
THE JOHANN FUST LIBRARY FOUNDATION

## *Contributors*

*Elizabeth Winthrop Alsop – Carol Armstrong – Simonetta Balzer – Barbara Edgerton  
David Futch – Susan Goodman – Alice Gorman – Julianne Greenberg – Davis Hammond  
Susan Hanafée – Candice Shy Hooper – Jacque Hoyt – Virginia Hume – Sandy Ross Jacobs  
Chrissy Kolaya – Levy Lorenzo – Lindsay Major – Lee Major – Layng Martine, Jr. – Bob Milne  
Chigozie Obioma – David James Poissant – Anna Quindlen – David Sparks – John Thomas  
Scott Turow – Toni Vanover – Daly Walker – Nancy White – Emerson Wickwire*

*Cover Art: “The Secret Garden” by Larry Anderson*

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# Island Booknotes 2022-23

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Dear Reader,

*Island Booknotes 2022-2023* is here! As you hold this publication in your hands, we hope you will enjoy the array of events, essays, poetry, and book reviews. I am again reminded of the depth of writing talent and the love of literature in our Boca Grande community.

As President of the Johann Fust Library Foundation, I wish to extend a special thank you to the generous contributors who support our mission and make this magazine and all our literary and cultural events possible. Enjoy!



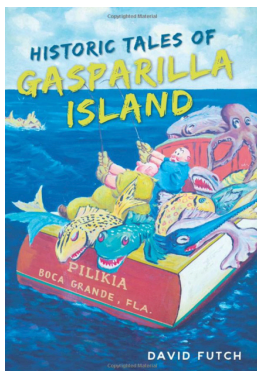
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Editor:  
Bobbie Marquis  
Deputy Editor:  
Julianne Greenberg  
Copy Editors:  
Barbara Edgerton  
Sue Fuller

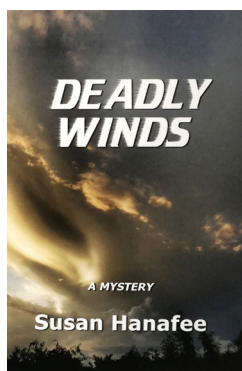
Johann Fust Library Foundation, Inc.  
1040 10th Street West  
PO Box 309  
Boca Grande, FL 33921  
JFLFBG.org  
Info@JFLFBG.org  
941.964.0211

**On the Cover:** *This trompe l'oeil painting of The Secret Garden was painted by local artist Larry Anderson. We invite you to visit The Secret Garden, which was renovated, in part through a grant from the Boca Grande Woman's Club. It is a wonderful place for story time and for parents and grandparents to read to their children.*

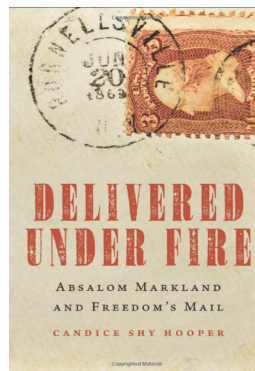
## NEW BOOKS BY LOCAL AUTHORS



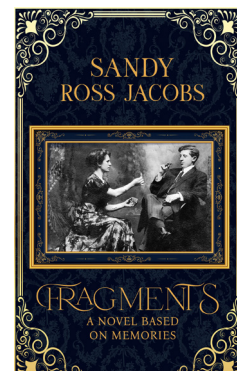
*Historic Tales of Gasparilla Island*  
by David Futch  
Published by History Press (Feb. 2022)



*Deadly Winds*  
by Susan Hanafée  
Published by BookBaby (Jan. 2023)



*Delivered Under Fire*  
by Candice Shy Hooper  
Published by Potomac Books (Feb. 2023)



*Fragments*  
by Sandy Ross Jacobs  
Published by Amazon (August 2022)



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## 2022-2023 Season of Events

### DECEMBER

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Thursday, Dec. 15, 4 pm At The Hermitage Beach on Manasota Key	"Notes: On Writing and Music" with Hermitage Fellows Chigozie Obioma (author of <i>The Fisherman &amp; An Orchestra of Minorities</i> ) and musician Levy Lorenzo Presented by The Hermitage Artist Retreat
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### JANUARY

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Tuesday, Jan. 17, 4 pm Library Loggia	Bob Milne – An American Music Journey
Thursday, Jan. 26, 4 pm Library Loggia	Author Virginia Hume – <i>Haven Point</i>

### FEBRUARY

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Tuesday, Feb. 7, 4:30 pm Community Center Auditorium	<b>JF Library Foundation Annual Benefit</b> Best Selling Author Scott Turow – <i>Suspect</i>
Thursday, Feb. 16, 4 pm Library Loggia	Local Author Lindsay Major – <i>Lindsay Hughes Cooper: A Portrait</i>

### MARCH

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Thursday, Mar. 2, 4 pm Library Loggia	<b>Literature in the Courtyard</b> Pulitzer Prize Winning Journalist & Author Anna Quindlen <i>Write for Your Life</i>
Friday, Mar. 10, 4 pm Library Loggia	Author & Song Writer Layng Martine, Jr. – <i>Permission to Fly</i>
Tuesday, Mar. 21, 4 pm Library Loggia	Author Elizabeth Winthrop Alsop – <i>Daughter of Spies</i>
Tuesday, Mar. 28, 4 pm Library Loggia	Carol Armstrong – <i>Bok's Giant Leap</i> by Neil Armstrong

### APRIL

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Tuesday, Apr. 4, 4 pm Library Loggia	Authors & Professors Chrissy Kolaya – <i>Charmed Particles</i> David James Poissant – <i>Lake Life</i>
Friday, Apr. 14, 4 pm Library Loggia	The Live Poet's Society of Boca Grande Poetry in the Garden

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL EVENTS.



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## NOTES: ON WRITING AND MUSIC AT THE HERMITAGE ARTIST RETREAT

CHIGOZIE OBIAMA AND LEVY LORENZO



Located just twenty miles northwest of Boca Grande, The Hermitage Artist Retreat has a dynamic mission: to inspire and foster the most influential and culturally consequential art and artists of our time. This year, the Johann Fust Library Foundation and The Hermitage planned our first collaboration.

Nigerian-born, critically acclaimed author Chigozie Obiama was to speak in the library courtyard. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, the damage to the library property necessitated that we postpone having any programs in the loggia until after January 1st. The collaboration is still in place, but the venue has been changed to the beautiful Hermitage Beach on Manasota Key.

On Thursday, December 15th, we invite you to attend “Notes: on Writing and Music” with Hermitage Fellows Chigozie Obiama and Levy Lorenzo. The Library Foundation will provide bus transportation for up to 55 people. Bring your chair and soak in the beauty as you listen to these two brilliant artists.

Chigozie Obiama’s two novels, *The Fisherman* and *An Orchestra of Minorities*, were both shortlisted for the Booker Prize in Fiction. He will read from his work and discuss his creative process. He will be joined by Filipino-American musician and instrument maker Levy Lorenzo whose quirky and creative work has been described as “a potent force on the side of exuberance, pleasure and awe of virtuosity” by the *New York Times*.

**"NOTES: ON WRITING AND MUSIC"  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2022 – 5 PM  
AT THE HERMITAGE ARTIST RETREAT  
ON THE BEACH**

**THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION IS HONORED  
TO PARTNER WITH THE HERMITAGE  
ON THIS SPECIAL EVENT.**

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## LIVING THE LIFE OF THE MIND, ISLAND STYLE

BY CANDICE SHY HOOPER

“How wonderful are islands!”

Anne Morrow Lindbergh, *A Gift from the Sea*



*Candice Shy Hooper became a published author while living on Gasparilla Island. Her next book, “Delivered Under Fire: Absalom Markland and Freedom’s Mail,” will be released in March 2023. She regrets that the word limit for this essay prevented her from including more names of the many talented friends and writers who live here.*

I’d like for you to take just moment to think back to the first time you drove onto Gasparilla Island. After you crossed the bridge over sparkling turquoise water, you motored by the little clutch of businesses at Uncle Henry’s. The road runs straight for about three miles and then makes an ever-so-slight bend to the left to accommodate a large pink wall that reaches from the right. It’s almost as if the building is waving to you as you drive by. You’ve encountered the very first indication of the town of Boca Grande, and it’s a library.

Not just any library, though, but a beautiful, thriving one, created and reinvigorated and sustained by the visionary residents of our town. Many things make Boca Grande special, but I love that the library welcomes everyone to our community.

It was, in fact, the library and the people I met through it that made me realize Boca Grande is more than the paradise for fishermen, golfers, and tennis players that my husband and I first visited nearly forty years ago. I fell in love with this island at first sight, but since I’m not a sportswoman, I wondered what I would do with my time while Lindsay golfed and fished.

A visit to the library solved that. Back in the days when it was a private library, I volunteered to be “Miss Friday Morning.” Rain or shine, I helped to shelve books and to check them out. Like so many islanders, I am a passionate reader, and I enjoyed meeting and talking with other passionate readers as they visited the library. How satisfying it was to change the date on the rubber stamp, dab it onto the inkpad, and press the “Due Date” on the slip at the back of the book for a patron!

In addition to the library, the Friends of the Boca Grande Community Center and its exceptional programming introduced me to more fellow readers and to prominent writers. I first had the privilege of working with the island’s inventive and inspirational Roger Lewis on the Friends’ Civil War Symposium in 2013 and have happily worked on many history and literature programs with him over the past decade.

That symposium was also where I first encountered the Live Poets of Boca Grande, who present the biennial “Poetry in the Garden” at the library. They have inspired and encouraged more than fifty years of local poets. The library’s Loggia and garden have also hosted renowned novelists, historians, biographers – writers of all genres, including our own authors, like Tom McGuane, Alice Gorman, Lucinda Sullivan, Linda Fairstein, and Jane Geniesse.

There are many, many ways to live the life of the mind on our island. Some neighbors do it through book clubs – I know one that kept its members sane by meeting outdoors under Australian pines during the bleak covid months – some through film clubs, some by studying the history of the island, some at informal “salons” where friends discuss timeless questions of philosophy over a glass of wine or a martini.

But I believe this island takes special care to nurture the person who seeks to write. The sun, sand, vibrant flowers, soothing greenery, and — above all — the talented, generous neighbors on this beautiful isle encourage us to reflect upon the world around us and to put our thoughts into words. Just as Captiva Island fed Anne Morrow Lindbergh’s soul when she wrote *A Gift from the Sea*, Gasparilla Island will feed every writer’s soul – if we let it.

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## AN AMERICAN MUSIC JOURNEY WITH BOB MILNE



On Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 4 PM, in the library courtyard, Bob Milne will lead a magical journey through the evolution of American music in an event titled “An American Music Journey.” Mr. Milne was designated a “National Treasure” after being interviewed, filmed, and recorded for the National Record of American Music. He can “hear” four symphonies in his head at once – a talent that neurological scientists continue to study.

*Bob Milne was referred to as a “national treasure” after he was interviewed and documented for future generations by the U.S. Library of Congress in 2004.*

We invite you to enjoy his guided musical journey in this inspiring program sponsored by Barbara and Emerson Wickwire. Mr. Milne’s impressive piano talent and deep historical knowledge combine to provide a unique understanding of how American music grew.

He takes his audience from 18th-century European classical music through America’s unique adaptation of all her various ethnic cultures. Be prepared to listen to music from Storyville, The Blues, Bluegrass, Rag, Rock, Irving Berlin and Broadway, and Contemporary hits. His musical journey is haunting, lyrical, swinging, and patriotic. Bob’s piano talent ranges across genres, and it has been said that he “defines rag-time.”

**AN AMERICAN MUSIC JOURNEY  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023 AT 4 PM  
JOHANN FUST LIBRARY COURTYARD**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT NO CHARGE.  
*REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.*

SPONSORED BY  
BARBARA & EMERSON WICKWIRE





OLD SCHOOL BY TOBIAS WOLFF

VINTAGE BOOKS 2003

In Tobias Wolff's first novel, *Old School*, set in the early 60s, the unnamed narrator describes with pride his elite eastern boarding school (also un-named) with its waxed oak floors, boys with woolen ties, overheated dorm rooms and its "chapel with the tall crenellated bell tower and streaming pennant." In spite of its outward pretensions, the school "believed" it was not snobbish. Our narrator is a scholarship boy, but no one knows that, and he has adopted the mannerisms, speech and casually unkempt dress of the privileged and has kept his modest background to himself.

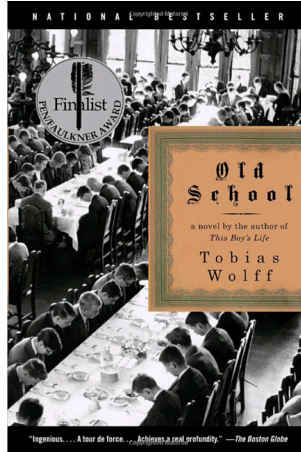
"If the school had a snobbery it would confess to, this was its pride in being a literary place ..." The English department is preeminent. The headmaster studied with Robert Frost and had published a book of poetry; the dean had been a friend of Hemingway's during WWI and was said to be the model for Jake's fishing buddy in *The Sun Also Rises*. English teachers "seem ... a kind of chivalric order."

There is a tradition at the school where a different famous author would visit each year and pick his favorite from work submitted by sixth formers (seniors). The anointed one would earn a private audience with the author himself and have the chosen work featured in the highly regarded school paper. Wolff's description of some of the visiting authors (Frost, Ayn Rand and Hemmingway) is one of the delights of the book.

The writing competition is fierce. The "book-drunk" boys "crack heads together like mountain rams." At the old school "writers were our rock stars." In an interview years later, Wolff commented that this kind of literary obsession could only develop in a cloistered environment like the Army, a monastery or an anglophile boys boarding school.

Finally, after years of jealously watching lesser lights being plucked from the crowd of hopeful young writers, it is announced that the greatest of all rock stars, Ernest Hemingway, was to be the visiting writer in the narrator's final year. Our boy is convinced his entry will be chosen.

Procrastinating until the last moment, he happens across a girls school publication which he begins to flip through to see what the girls write. He is astounded. For years he has written stories that portray the preppy image he would like others to see, but this was the story that he should have written. It is narrated by a Jewish girl invited to a summer dance at an exclusive country club by a WASP



girlfriend from school. "They need girls." Then the friend asks, "One thing. Can I give them your name as Lewis and not Levine? I'm sorry. Club rules." The writer pours her heart out on paper about her scholarship background, and one can imagine her vulnerability at Miss Cobb's Academy, that probably also "believed" it was not snobbish. She desperately wants to fit in at that country club with its summer of dances. Our narrator is mesmerized. "I recognized myself." He changed a few words (like the author's name and gender) and then typed it just to see how it would feel to write it. He, too, was a scholarship student with a deceased Jewish father. He was leading a pedestrian off-campus life but had hidden it to present himself as just another one of the "acceptable" guys. It was his story. He turned it in.

His story won. Hemingway picked it and declared it "damned good work," fairly gushing over its honesty and "writing from his conscience." The piece was published in the school paper. Our boy had the recognition and admiration he and all writers crave.

Needless to say, the plagiarism was discovered to the great dismay of the school. "Plagiarism is bad enough. But from a girl?" And this is really where the story begins.

This book draws heavily on Wolff's own life experiences but is fiction. His earlier works, *This Boy's Life* and *Pharaoh's Army* were memoirs. It has been said that this novel reads like a memoir and his memoirs like novels. They are very entertaining. Wolff got into the elite Hill School by forging recommendations from his Seattle high school teachers. He rationalized that those were the ones they would've written if they had "known me as I knew myself." He eventually flunked out of Hill School, having perhaps overstated his qualifications, and joined the Army.

Later, older and wiser, he earned a B.A. at Oxford and a M.A. as a Wallace Stegner Fellow at Stanford, where he has been on the faculty since 1997.



In the past 28 years, Lee Major, a former attorney and businessman, along with his wife, Lindsay, have been winter residents of Boca Grande. When not in Boca Grande, he resides in Kansas City where he is an occasional book reviewer for the *Kansas City Star*.

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VIRGINIA HUME  
AUTHOR OF *HAVEN POINT*



*Virginia Hume will speak in the Library Loggia and Courtyard on Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 4 pm.*

*Virginia spent the first few years of her career in marketing before she was bitten by the political bug, after which she spent a couple of decades in politics and public affairs communications. They say truth is stranger than fiction. At some point, she decided politics had gotten a little too strange, and she turned to fiction.*

*Her debut novel, Haven Point (St. Martin's Press) was released on June 8, 2021. Her second novel, The Bureau of Virtue, also acquired by St. Martin's Press, will be on shelves in summer, 2024.*

*Virginia graduated from Vanderbilt University with a Bachelor's Degree in History. She lives in Chevy Chase, Maryland with her husband, Drew Onufer, their two daughters, and an undergroomed bichon named Chester.*

The choice to pick up this novel as a welcome companion and respite from Hurricane Ian proved remarkably serendipitous, with its dramatic and eerily parallel plot lines, characters and events to our life and times in Boca Grande and SW Florida.

Many of our local readers of Virginia Hume's debut novel will be reminded of days gone by in a small picturesque, well-heeled coastal Maine community and smile at the mention of Boca Grande. Haven Point and Boca Grande share stereotypes, demographics, politics, dress, traditions, leisure activities and ever-dynamic ideologies. Through the novel's well-developed characters, many readers will see familiar attributes of family and dear friends and be reminded of the nature of adolescence.

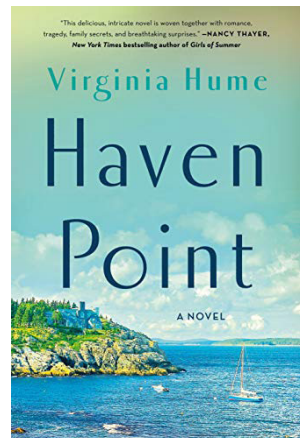
Haven Point's central characters are four generations of the Demarest family women and their attachment to their family home in Maine. The novel spans from 1944 to 2008, beginning with a romance that is sparked at Walter Reed Army Hospital as WWII comes to an end. It is there that the reader first connects to the novel's central character, Maren.

As decades pass and the family drama unfolds, Hume introduces the reader to two more generations of women – Maren's daughter and granddaughter. The story touches on polarizing themes and events in our nation's history during the Vietnam War and in the 1970s. Hume's interjection of the politics and attitudes of the time, lends an air of authenticity to this work of fiction.

Haven Point remains immutable while newcomers make their way into the community. Over the decades, community, social strata, and traditions are upheld as family dramas, and the characters' lives unfold into a beautifully woven story. This entertaining novel highlights the strength of family and community and the harm caused by long-held secrets.

If idyllic small-town coastal living, black labs, cocktail parties, sailing, tennis, family secrets and hurricanes are in your wheelhouse, Virginia Hume's novel will be one that you won't put down, and its characters will remain with you.

*Review by Julianne Greenberg*



**A LITERARY SERIES EVENT  
THURSDAY, JAN 26, 2023 - 4PM**

**JOHANN FUST LIBRARY  
COURTYARD AND LOGGIA**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT NO CHARGE  
*REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED*



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# WARTIME

BY JOHN THOMAS

**As the news and images of war in Ukraine continue to flood the media, I have been taken back to my childhood nearly 80 years ago in wartime Wales.**

I remember anxious grown-up conversations around the dinner table and how silence was called for during the hourly BBC news reports as war approached. At my local cinema, Pathe News footage of the Luftwaffe bombing Czechoslovakia showed massive, gray metal clusters tumbling from the sky and smaller incendiary bombs swooping down like silver schools of fish. But it all seemed as far away as Hollywood in the comfort of my secluded village.

Soon enough, though, when Britain declared war on Germany on September 1, 1939, the danger was no longer a distant image on newsreels. Like the unified response in Ukraine to Russia's invasion, the Welsh people rallied. Men enlisted. Fire wardens and volunteer nurses organized. Munitions factories raised production, and rationing was imposed. Government-subsidized air-raid shelters were constructed. The air resounded with wailing sirens, and we fell out for practice drills. Our local golf course was gouged with trenches to prevent glider landings, and the local Home Guard conducted maneuvers, firing blanks and making bayonet charges at the stuffed straw enemy. We kids gathered the empty shell cases for our own war games.

When 300 German bombers attacked London a year later, we began life under perpetual threat. Gleaming silver balloons with huge elephant ears hovered high in the sky over Swansea, their taut steel cables ready to intercept raiding bombers that had the docks in their sights. On any given night, we might be startled awake by the ear-piercing wail – a half-dozen high notes repeated over and over – of the air-raid siren's "ALERT." I tumbled with my family and neighbors out of our houses, clutching pillows and blankets. Mothers carried and pulled sleepy children by the hand, urged on by the unrelenting blare of the siren, screaming "Hurry! Hurry!" in our befuddled scramble to the safety of the shelter. Stark searchlight beams stabbed the black sky in weaving plaid patterns scanning for enemy aircraft. Night was turned into day under the searchlight canopy. Ack-Ack batteries hammered away, their tracer shells stitching the

night sky as the throbbing German bombers arrived. As we huddled together, we heard the whistle of a descending bomb, the thump and crump of the explosion, felt the ground shake and hoped it wasn't one of our houses that was hit. I felt safe in the shelter. It was my secret hideaway from Hitler. But I still pressed close to my mother for comfort.



LONDON ARCHIVE PHOTO

One morning, when the all-clear was sounded, we emerged, blinking into the daylight, to discover that a stray bomb had destroyed a row house not a hundred yards away from my grandparent's home. The neighboring houses on either side remained intact, leaving the row with a gap-toothed appearance as though a single extraction had been made.

The crescendo of the bombing of Swansea came with a three-night Luftwaffe blitz, which was intended to destroy the docks. Instead, it flattened the town center, with 230 civilian casualties and hundreds more injured. In time, my father took me to see the destruction. Steering around craters and rubble, we neared the entrance to High Street, where smoke rose from piles of debris. The Mackworth Hotel was now a massive hole in the ground. David Jones, the town's finest haberdasher where I got my first long gray trousers – gone. The Odeon Theater, with its dazzling silver screen where I watched gangster and cowboy films, was destroyed, its fine Art Deco exterior ripped to shreds.

As my father and I sat silently, taking everything in, even my child's mind could understand my safe and familiar world had been summarily swept away. This devastation marked the beginning of a furious fight for survival, one the people of Ukraine know well. Let them not face it alone.

---

***On any given night, we might be startled awake by the ear-piercing wail – a half dozen high notes repeated over and over of the air-raid siren's "ALERT."***

---



*John H. Thomas was born in Wales, U.K. he spent a 40-year career with Wedgwood, the British ceramic manufacturer. He and his wife Claudia live in Boca Grande.*

*He enjoys singing with Grande Glee, performing with Royal Palm Players, and is an avid reader of history and poetry.*



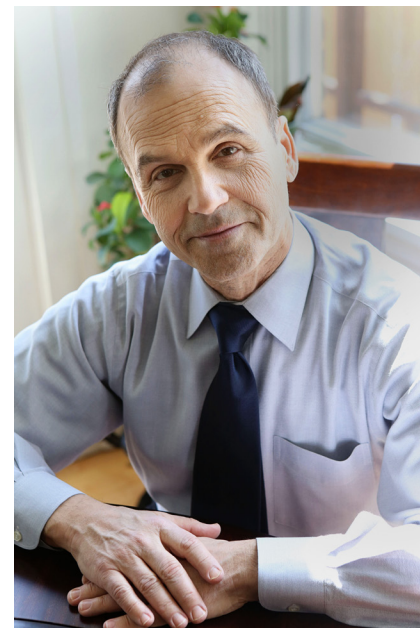
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# Johann Fust Library Foundation

## 2023 ANNUAL BENEFIT

featuring

## SCOTT TUROW



We are honored to present Scott Turow as our 2023 Annual Benefit speaker. Mr. Turow is a writer and attorney and the author of fourteen bestselling works of fiction, including *Presumed Innocent* and *The Last Trial*. His newest novel, *Suspect*, was published by Grand Central Publishing in September 2022. Mr. Turow has also published two nonfiction books, including *One L*, about his experience as a law student and *Ultimate Punishment: A Lawyer's Reflections on Dealing with the Death Penalty*.

His books have been translated into more than forty languages and sold more than thirty million copies worldwide. He has frequently contributed essays and op-ed pieces to publications such as the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Vanity Fair*, *The New Yorker*, and *The Atlantic*. His works have also been adapted into movie and television projects. Most recently, Apple TV+ announced that it will soon stream an eight-part limited series based on *Presumed Innocent*.

In 1986, Mr. Turow became a partner in the Chicago office of Dentons LLC, an international law firm, concentrating on white collar criminal defense, while also devoting a substantial part of his time to pro bono matters. He retired from commercial practice in 2020. From 1978 until 1986, Mr. Turow worked as Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois. He has served on a number of public bodies, including the Illinois Commission on Capital Punishment, which proposed reforms to Illinois' death penalty system, and he was the first Chair of Illinois' Executive Ethics Commission, created in 2004 to regulate executive branch employees in the Illinois State government. He is a former President of the Authors Guild, the nation's largest membership organization of professional writers, and currently serves as an Emeritus Trustee of Amherst College and a Trustee of the Poetry Foundation.



**TUESDAY, FEB 7, 2023**  
**4:30 PM**  
**BOCA GRANDE**  
**COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**AUDITORIUM**

**WE THANK OUR INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE SPONSORS.**



*The Library Foundation offers most events at no charge. The Annual Benefit is the only event for which admission is charged.*

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## LIKE A JEWEL BOX

BY SIMONETTA BALZER

The girl gets up  
in the darkened room.  
She throws the window open.  
Like a jewel box  
on the vast cobalt blue  
of the sky and the sea,  
sparkling gems  
in the golden sunlight.

The girl breaths in,  
delighted,  
the briny air,  
smelling the dried  
seaweed, abandoned  
by the gentle surf  
on the beach below.

She knows each line  
of the distant horizon  
and the mythical mountain,  
veiled by the morning haze  
where spellbound Ulysses  
found love and oblivion.  
She knows Roman emperors  
used to bathe in those waters,  
she knows that those waters  
have a harsh salty taste.



Quick, she must go  
and join her friends,  
how could she be  
sleeping so late  
on a morning like this.  
She can't wait to dive  
in the welcoming waves  
and swim further out  
where the surface is calm.

Then, breathlessly,  
come back ashore  
and roll in the sand  
warmed by the sun  
of those hot August days.

That was then, at a time  
when the girl had no fear.  
She will, later swim  
in so many seas,  
in so many different  
parts of the world.  
Yet, never she will  
experience again  
that undaunted bliss  
in the embrace of the sea.

**Boca Grande**  
February 2012

*Simona (Simonetta) Balzer is one of the Live Poets of Boca Grande. She was born in Rome, Italy, and received her degree in Classics and Archeology at the University of Rome. She joined the Live Poets' Society of Boca Grande 12 years ago. She and her husband Giorgio divide their time between Boca Grande and New Jersey. "The Collected Poems of Simonetta Balzer" was published in 2022. Simonetta, as a young girl, is pictured on the book's cover.*

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## LINDSAY MAJOR

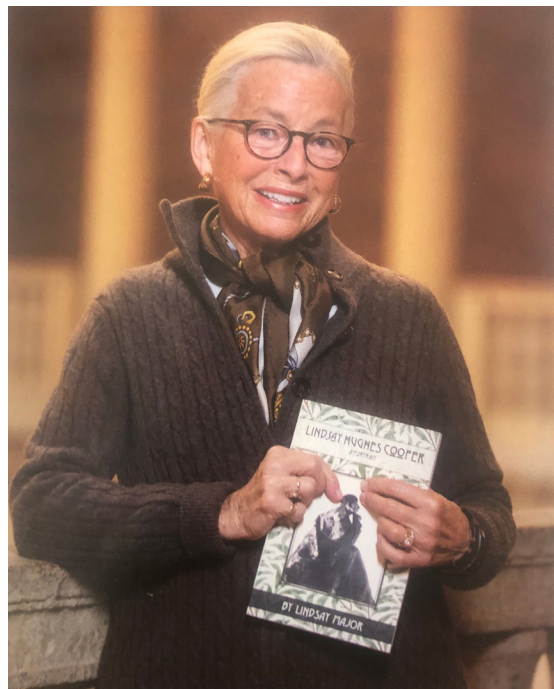
### AUTHOR OF *LINDSAY HUGHES COOPER: A PORTRAIT*

On Thursday, February 16, 2023, local author Lindsay Major will speak about her book *Lindsay Hughes Cooper: A Portrait*. Ms. Major is a former president and board member of the Johann Fust Library Foundation. Many Boca Grande residents may have heard her read at *Poetry in the Garden*, as she is a longtime member of the Live Poets Society of Boca Grande. Lindsay embodies a love of literature; therefore, it is not surprising that her book has garnered praise from readers and reviewers in Boca Grande and Kansas City.

Lindsay Major is the niece and namesake of Lindsay Hughes Cooper. She was inspired to write about her when a friend in her Kansas City book group referred to Ms. Cooper as “an iconic figure” at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and suggested to Lindsay that she write her biography. Lindsay was speechless. “The thought had never entered my mind.”

This book tells a multi-layered story. First and foremost, it is about Lindsay Hughes Cooper, a brilliant, determined woman who begged for a job at the Nelson Museum when it was opening in the early 1930s. She had such a keen desire to work there, that she offered to work for free. Ms. Cooper had studied art history and rhetoric in college and was an excellent speaker, but women were relegated to menial jobs in early twentieth-century America. Finally, in 1933 Paul Gardner, the Nelson’s first Director, hired her. She began her career repairing tapestries. Ms. Cooper’s scholarship and deeper talents were eventually recognized, and she was promoted to Assistant to the Curator of the Asian Collection. When Curator Laurence Sickman left to serve in World War II, Ms. Cooper became Acting Curator. The book’s evocative cover features Ms. Cooper in a 1945 photo, modeling a robe from the Nelson Museum’s textile collection.

Beyond telling the story of Ms. Cooper’s career at the museum, the book also paints a portrait of her family and the founding of the Nelson-Atkins Museum in Kansas City, a town “at the edge of the prairie.”



Lindsay Major was born in Wyoming and grew up in Kansas City. She graduated from the University of Missouri with a B.A. in Philosophy and English Literature. She and her husband, Lee, discovered Boca Grande during a trip to Useppa Island thirty years ago. They have had a home in Boca Grande for over twenty-six years and enjoy visits from their three children and their families. Lindsay is a poet and an avid reader. She served on the Johann Fust Library Foundation Board for six years and as president for two.

“The book is rich with details about the Museum’s early years, and it offers a view of what it was like to be a professional woman during the 1930s and 1940s, including the war years when the Nelson-Atkins was operated primarily by women.”

Julián Zugazagoitia  
Director of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

**A LITERARY SERIES EVENT**  
**THURSDAY, FEB 16, 2023 - 4PM**

**JOHANN FUST LIBRARY**  
**COURTYARD AND LOGGIA**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT NO CHARGE  
*REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED*



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## ENCOUNTER AT HANNAFORD'S

BY ALICE GORMAN

We stood in front of the napa cabbage,  
her cart bumping into mine,  
her smile, a flicker of times past,  
of summer sailing, island picnics,  
the happy times we shared.

How are you? I asked.  
And you? she said. It's been too long.

For years we didn't speak:  
family splits, letters of vitriol,  
lawsuits over property.  
Who's allowed to play tennis  
or use the swimming dock?

How is it living alone? she asked.  
My cart nearly empty,  
my husband so recently gone.  
Mine's gone too, she said,  
although we never married.

I'm sorry, I said, eyeing  
her single package of  
chicken sausage and sprouts.

And your brother? I asked. Did he survive?  
His liver tumor's still there,  
but he's back to drinking rum.

We spoke of her mother, her memory loss,  
all gone but the distant past.  
Like us, I thought, the short term gone,  
property issues forgotten.

We stood together, all smiles,  
old friends picking up the past,  
strangers sidling around us,  
picking up broccoli and beans.



*Alice Bingham Gorman is a Johann Fust Library Foundation Board Member Emerita. She has been a passionate supporter of the Foundation's mission for many years. Alice is a member of the Live Poets' Society of Boca Grande and will be reading at this year's Poetry in the Garden. Her essays and short stories have been published in "Vogue," "Oprah Magazine," "The Louisville Review," and others.*

*Her first novel, "Valeria Vose," was published in 2018. Alice contributed her essay, "For the Love of Grits," to the 2022 anthology "Breaking Bread: Essays from New England on Food, Hunger and Family," edited by Deborah Joy Corey and Debra Spark and published by Beacon Press in Boston. Alice divides her time between Boca Grande and Maine.*



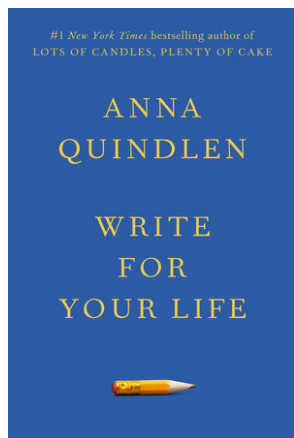
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Literature in the Courtyard 2023  
PRESENTED THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF COTTON HANLEY  
*featuring*  
**ANNA QUINDLEN**  
IN CONVERSATION WITH ALICE GORMAN

The Library Foundation is honored to present Anna Quindlen as our featured author for Literature in the Courtyard 2023. Ms. Quindlen is a uniquely gifted writer who has succeeded as a columnist and writer of fiction and non-fiction. In 1992, while writing for the *New York Times*, she won the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary. She published two collections of her columns: *Living Out Loud* and *Thinking Out Loud*.

She is the author of nine novels: *Object Lessons*, *One True Thing*, *Black and Blue*, *Blessings*, *Rise and Shine*, *Every Last One*, *Still Life with Bread Crumbs*, *Miller's Valley*, and *Alternate Side*. Her poignant novel, *One True Thing*, was loosely inspired by Ms. Quindlen's loss of her mother to cancer when Anna was 19. The book was made into a highly acclaimed movie starring Meryl Streep, William Hurt, and Renee Zellweger.

Ms. Quindlen has written thirteen non-fiction books. Her memoir *Lots of Candles*, *Plenty of Cake*, published in 2012, was a #1 *New York Times* bestseller, and her book *A Short Guide to a Happy Life* has sold more than



a million copies. In her newest book, *Write for Your Life*, she speaks to the power of writing – examining the value of putting thoughts and experiences on paper, whether one is a trained writer or not. The book begins with Ann Frank's infamous diary. It continues with examples of how letter-writing and journaling are ways of connecting to one's self and of sharing today's experience with those who read those literary bits in the future.

"To write the present," Quindlen says, "is to believe in the future." Anna Quindlen is a writer whose life is a map of literary achievement. In addition to her vast body of published work, she has spoken at many university commencements and received honorary degrees and awards from several universities.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023 4 PM**  
**LIBRARY LOGGIA**

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Ms. Quindlen will be joined in conversation by Alice Gorman.  
Please see Page 14 for more information about Ms. Gorman.

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# WRITER'S CRAMP

BY DAVID SPARKS

*Note: I was sprawled in a chair in one of my favorite places to write – the outdoor reading room at the Fust Library – staring at a blank computer screen when Bobbie Marquis came by and asked me how I was doing. I told her I was stuck. My fourth book – two years in the making – was going nowhere. Never one to miss an opportunity, Bobbie asked me to write about the experience. What the hell? I wasn't writing my book. I agreed.*

My first book – *Built to Fail* – was a serious novel written ten years ago in the third person with a political theme. Like most first-time book authors, I'd been thinking about this book for a long time. I wrote most of it, hired an editor, and then heeding his very pointed comments ("you've never taken a writing class, have you?) I re-wrote most of it. I was energized by the fact that I realized I liked writing, I was into my story, and I was challenged to finish what I had started. It turned out to be a good book, not great, but I was proud of it.

I started my second book – *Burying Pinkie Pie* – facing the common wisdom that most first-time authors didn't write a second book. Doing *Built to Fail*, I found I liked writing, and I thought I was pretty good, but I wanted a change. My second novel was written in the first person, told by a teenage boy. I needed a familiar setting, so it was on Boca Grande. It was a "caper book" – assemble a team, fight the bad guys, and win in the end. And it was funny. I like to think I'm funny, and it was more enjoyable to write than my first. The book turned out pretty well, but there was some confusion about whether it was a young adult novel or meant for a "normal" readership.

I wrote my third book – *What Carlos Knew* – as a sequel to *Pinkie Pie*. During this time frame, the #metoo movement had happened, and I had a strong teenage woman character, so I thought she should be celebrated more. Plus, it was another caper book – funny and fun to write. Again, I wrote in the first-person voice of the teenage boy character. I liked writing in his voice. Again, confusion over the potential readership, despite the banner on the cover that read "For All Ages."

I started on my fourth book – tentatively titled *Eulogy* – with several thoughts in mind: I didn't want to be pigeon-holed as a writer of funny young-adult books (although, given the meager sales of all these books, I don't know who

was doing the pigeon-holing.) I wanted to get back to writing in third person, a skill that's harder for me than first-person; and I wanted to use my career in politics to give me some "juice" in sales. Plus, I had this great story in mind. Double plus: I wanted to be challenged by writing a serious book, not a rollicking book with teen characters putting something over on the bad guys. Triple plus, a number of years ago, I

wrote a short story about my grandfather's funeral. I did it as a test to see if I liked writing and tried it out with some critical reader-friends. I knew funerals provided a wealth of drama.

*Eulogy* is about a guy who's been asked to write a "historically accurate" eulogy of a former President. The story is set in Chicago, and my Illinois hometown, Danville, with much of the action in a presidential library and a big church. I toured several presidential libraries and spent a whole

day inside the Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago. I did a fair amount of research on one of the book's plotlines, and I've been to a couple of big funerals.

I read somewhere that Stephen King doesn't know how his books will end, while John Irving has each book all planned out.

I pretty much had the story in my head (maybe three-quarters of my way to John Irving approach, somewhere around 110,000 words) when I realized (duh) that the one-quarter I hadn't planned was the end. And I was stumped. I didn't know how to end the book. Great characters, a good storyline and settings, but I had about five possible endings, and they were all pretty good, but none matched the story I'd told so far. Suddenly I was bored with writing, tired of my characters, and not nearly enamored with my great story as I used to be. Maybe I was a three-book guy.

Here's what I do when I have writer's block; drink more coffee, read newspapers, play Spades, look at Facebook or Twitter, take naps, and watch instructional YouTube videos on things I'll never do.

When I write, I chart the book out using index cards, tape and easel paper. It gives me a road map of the action. I moved my cards around and studied that @#^ board for about a week, but that didn't help.



*"Writer's Cramp" continued on pg. 17*



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## ***“Writer’s Cramp” from pg. 16***

I took the whole book and changed its point of view from the third person to the first (I know what I said about wanting to write third person earlier). This gave the impression that I was writing, but I wasn’t. To be sure, I was “working on my book,” but the tedious process of changing “he” to “me” isn’t writing. But if you write in the first person, you are challenged to be more descriptive because the story is seen through the eyes of your lead character. So, I went through and beefed up the “atmospherics” in the book. After all that, I realized I was still stuck. Yeah, it gave me a fresh perspective writing as “I,” especially since the character is my age and grew up in the same Midwest town. But I still didn’t know how the book was going to end.

My next gambit: I printed the whole thing out (\$27) on single-spaced, one-sided paper. I punched holes in it and put it in a nice notebook. The weight was impressive; I’ll say that. It didn’t help me with my writer’s funk, but I found a bunch of copy edits.

I read *Bird by Bird* by Anne Lamott. Great book on writing. (My other great book on writing is Stephen King’s *On Writing*. Because of him, I’ve assiduously avoided using adverbs.) For stumped writers, Lamott suggested writing a “treatment” of the book, a short, several-page synopsis. It helps you consider a short version of your book instead of 110,000 words on a computer or paper.

I wrote the treatment. Also, I happen to have a close relationship with a creative writing teacher! Between the two, it worked. We figured out there were problems with what I’d already written; that no ending would fit because several story crunch points were either unrealistic or too limiting as to where the story might go. Now that I have an idea of how it will end and what’s not clear, I look forward to working it through instead of dreading it. I’m back to appreciating my characters and telling the story.

As they say in Danville, “God willing and the crick don’t rise,” *Eulogy* will be out this year.

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*David Sparks was raised in Illinois and Massachusetts. He graduated from Tufts University and received a Master of Public Administration degree from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Sparks also was a Fellow at the Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School.*



*His career included a variety of local, state and national political and public sector positions, including senior roles on three presidential campaigns. After his first career, Mr. Sparks turned to writing fiction.*



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## *Little Black Birds*

*They are so happy.  
They sit, stride, flit, fly, seek, feed  
and stay together.*

by Nancy White



*Nancy White is one of the Live Poets of Boca Grande. She will read at Poetry in the Garden on Friday, April 14, 2023. She wrote this traditional haiku during the poets’ haiku workshop last spring.*

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## *Clusters of orchids*

*Flutter like white butterflies  
in light spring breezes.*

By John Thomas

*See more from John Thomas on page 10.*

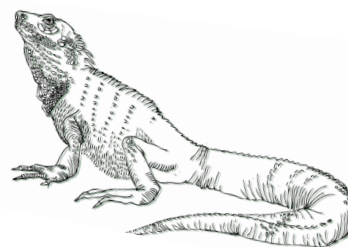
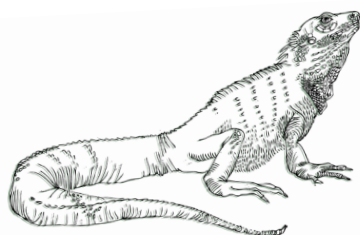


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# PLIGHT OF THE IGUANA

## *A Little Lyric on One of Our Island Issues*

BY EMERSON WICKWIRE



Jose and Josanna Iguana  
Dreamed up the vacation they'd wanna  
They decided, after thinking much thought,  
That they'd test a rest  
Down in grand Boca Grande  
To savor salty air, to bask, to wallow  
In its warm bland Boca Grande sand.  
But this couple cut short their 'vestigation  
Toward the Island's temperamental situation  
They failed to ask before their arrival  
"Could local proclivities threaten reptilian survival?".  
Too readily they assumed, since the gecko's green allure  
Was touted, front and center, in the Island Chamber's glossy brochure,  
That their own leathery hoary iguana selves  
Would be welcomed open armedly as would Santa's friendly elves.  
They thought, in fact, that they'd be feted.  
So ... so naïvely they'd not even vetted  
Any belief that they could be netted or etted!  
So innocent ... they checked into the Inn at Gasparilla  
With Josanna swathed to her chin in her chin chin chilla  
As they came into view, the front deskman rang his bell.  
Then, in the drive drove a man in a van with a net  
His duty, the island's vermin laws to abet.  
And he hauled them away quoting statutes that they'd  
never heard of. No iguana's been seen on the Isle again yet.



*During his long professional career in banking and finance, Emerson always made time for painting and creative writing. He and Barbara came to Boca Grande 20+ years ago seeking a sunny escape for a few winter months. This winter escape led to a rich island life paralleling lengthy times spent in northern Italy. These two locales inspired him to focus on his retirement passions: poetry, interpretive work on the Renaissance arts of Florentine cofanetti, and creative writing.*

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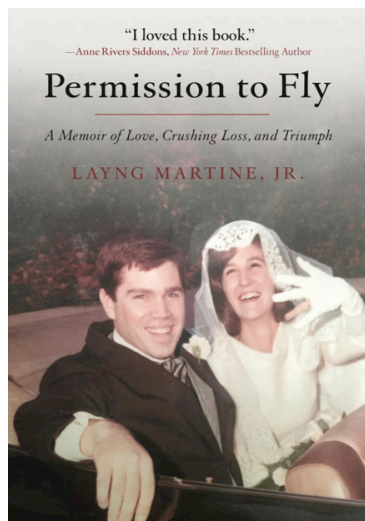
# PERMISSION TO FLY: A MEMOIR OF LOVE, CRUSHING LOSS AND TRIUMPH

BY LAYNG MARTINE JR.

The Library Foundation is excited to present accomplished songwriter and author Layng Martine, Jr., who will speak in the library loggia on Friday, March 10, 2023, at 4 p.m.

Layng's story is an inspiring one. His book, *Permission to Fly*, is a captivating blend of humor, love, and humanity. In 2007, he wrote an essay for the *New York Times*' "Modern Love" column titled "In a Charmed Life, a Road Less Traveled." It was the most shared piece in the column's history. Layng wrote about his and his wife Linda's life since she was paralyzed in a car accident. The enormous response to that essay inspired his memoir.

The long list of singers who have recorded Layng's songs reads like a who's who of R&B, country, and popular music. Layng holds a deep admiration for Elvis Presley. His song "Way Down" was the last new song Elvis recorded, and it was number one on the charts the day Elvis died.



Layng was nominated for a Grammy in 1993 for the song "The Greatest Man I Ever Knew," which was recorded by Reba McEntire. He was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2013.

He has had tremendous success in the music business, but the great love of Layng's life is his wife, Linda. They have not allowed her confinement to a wheelchair to deprive them and their three sons of a fulfilling, adventurous life. As the subtitle of his inspiring book says, his is "A Memoir of Love, Crushing Loss, and Triumph."



Songwriter Layng Martine Jr. is a member of the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame. In his four decades on the *BILLBOARD* music charts Layng wrote or co-wrote such songs as Elvis Presley's million-selling "Way Down", Reba McEntire's "The Greatest Man I Never Knew", and Billy "Crash" Craddock's "Rub It In" which became the long-running TV commercial "Plug It In, Plug It In".

Layng was educated at Denison University and Columbia University. He and Linda live in Nashville, Tennessee where they raised their three sons.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2023 4 PM**  
**LIBRARY LOGGIA**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT NO CHARGE  
*REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED*





*Barbara Edgerton is a former Director of Publicity and Public Relations for Tiffany & Co., New York. For eight years, she was a docent at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC. She served as Special Assistant to the White House for Gifts to the President and Vice President of the United States.*

*On Boca Grande, she is a former co-chair of the Literature Forum Steering Committee and a former board member and officer of the Johann Fust Library Foundation. Barbara has edited two books for Friends of Boca Grande: Civil War Memories and World Wars – Memories and Reflections. She currently serves on the Friends of Boca Grande Board of Directors and is a member of the Boca Grande Woman's Club Scholarship Committee. She and her husband, Jerry Edgerton, divide their time between Boca Grande and McLean, Virginia.*

## BAD HAIR DAYS

A very long time ago  
the girl's mother shocked her father  
"A poodle cut?  
I don't think so."

A first perm at five,  
tight curls, full, springy –  
impossible to comb.  
The girl loved it.  
The mother not so much.  
The father not at all.

Walking in Central Park with a fellow,  
between shadows and sunshine  
bouncing off her head –  
"Oh, I thought you were a blonde."  
"No, no" she proudly said. "Strawberry blonde."  
"Really? That will never do – not a red head."

A day set aside for hair tinting  
Nothing permanent, just a little test for fun.  
The daughter appears.  
"Mom, you're not going out like that, are you?"  
She with the beautiful thick auburn crown,  
now gone.

Fast forward  
A part in the middle, graying slightly,  
frizzing occasionally like Katherine Hepburn,  
clipped back with a comb.  
No bad hair days.

By Barbara Edgerton



## SIMPLY LIGHT

Three small  
crystals in my lap,

Caught in the  
moment of a blue  
lit sky.

Golden beach,  
golden pup, and  
just like him,  
small children  
curled in a shaded  
nap.

What does a day  
like this mean,  
a private moment  
to contemplate  
why?

Yes, I believe it's  
just that,

For as those  
grains of sand  
reflect the light,

They simply  
remind this new  
world of an old  
world and distant  
moments in the  
light.

By Susan Goodman

*Susan Goodman is a native of Laurinburg, North Carolina, and has resided in Raleigh for most of her life. She has a bachelors degree in History and Political Science and a master's in landscape architecture.*

*During the winter, she and her husband, Ray, reside in the Cost Cottage at the Johann Fust Library on Boca Grande. They also have a home in Livingston, Montana. Susan and Ray's golden retriever, Murray, is pictured here with Susan when he was just a pup.*



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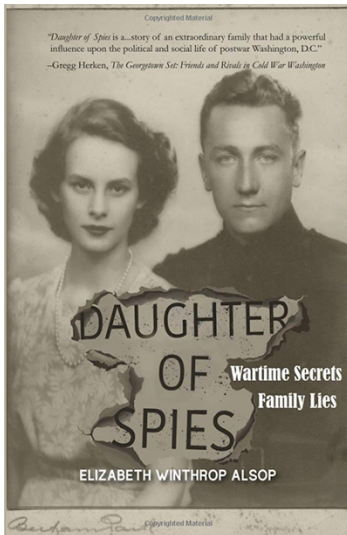
# DAUGHTER OF SPIES: WARTIME SECRETS FAMILY LIES

By Elizabeth Winthrop Alsop

The Library Foundation is honored to present author Elizabeth Winthrop Alsop who will speak about her newest book, *Daughter of Spies*, in the library loggia on Tuesday, March 21, at 4 p.m.

*Daughter of Spies* is a uniquely personal, fascinating, and multilayered story. Elizabeth's parents both served in intelligence positions during World War II. Her father, Stewart Alsop, served in the Office of Strategic Services (OSS,) and her mother, Patricia "Tish" Barnard Hankey, served with the British Security Service (M15) as a decoder. After the war, they were at the center of the Georgetown Set, a prominent inner circle of politicians and celebrities in post-war Washington, DC.

Elizabeth's father and his brother Joe Alsop, grandnephews of Teddy Roosevelt, were renowned political columnists. They interacted with the



most powerful political figures of the time. Against this elite political and social backdrop, Elizabeth grew up with her five brothers in a DC suburb.

Her memoir focuses on her mother, who, as the book begins, is in her later years confronting dementia and a loss of independence. Elizabeth finds a box of old letters,

and together she and her mother visit the past. Elizabeth explores her mother's alcoholism and unravels the causes, accompanying secrets, and their impact on her and her brothers.

*Daughter of Spies* is a treasure of historical and personal insights told through the author's childhood memories and her experience later in life as her mother's health surrogate.



*Elizabeth Winthrop Alsop grew up in Washington and graduated from Sarah Lawrence College. She is an author for all ages, with 60 works of fiction published. She won the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award and the PEN Syndicated Fiction Award.*

*Robert Stone selected her short story, "The Golden Darters," for "Best American Short Stories," and her poetry has been published in anthologies and literary journals.*

*Her fantasy novels for children, "The Castle in the Attic" and "The Battle for the Castle" have been nominated for 23 state book awards and are considered classic of the genre.*

**TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2023 AT 4 PM**  
**LIBRARY LOGGIA**

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IN LOVE – A MEMOIR OF LOVE AND LOSS BY AMY BLOOM

RANDOM HOUSE 2022



Daly Walker practiced general surgery in Columbus, Indiana before retiring and studying creative writing. Daly's work has been short listed for Best American Short Stories and an O'Henry Award. It was nominated for a Pushcart Prize and was a finalist in The Best American Magazine Writing.

Now retired from medicine, he divides his time between Quechee, Vermont, and Boca Grande, Florida. He teaches a Fiction Writer's Workshop at Dartmouth College in the Osher Institute. He serves on the editorial board and is a fiction editor of Columbia University's *"Intima: A Journal of Narrative Medicine."*

Amy Bloom's moving memoir, *In Love: a Memoir of Love and Loss*, is a love story about an idyllic marriage shattered when Bloom's 60 year old husband Brian's forgetfulness takes over their lives. His personality changes, and he becomes distant and indifferent. "Names disappearing, repetition, information turned upside down, appointments and medications scrambled. Suddenly it seemed we argued endlessly about everything," Bloom laments. An MRI, with white splotches where Brian's brain no longer exists, confirms that the culprit in his transformation is early-onset Alzheimer's Disease.

It is after this diagnosis when Brian, a big handsome former Yale football player known as Thor, makes a decision to end his life on his own terms before he is the antithesis of his accomplished and gracious self and becomes a burden. "It's my life," he says. "I should get to decide how to end it." What follows is an epic tale written artfully with great candor, about the couple's courageous but heartbreaking journey to a destination of death by assisted suicide.

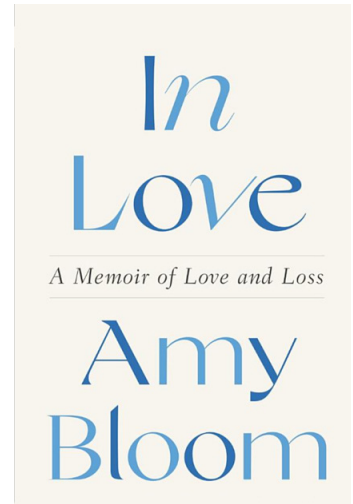
Bloom is perfectly prepared to tell this story. An acclaimed author, her fiction has appeared in the best literary publications, made her a finalist for a National Book Award, and winner of the a National Magazine Award. Her years working as a psychotherapist allow her special insight into the psyches, not only of herself and her husband, but of the physicians, friends, and family who play roles in the couple's existential odyssey.

Their arduous quest, led by Amy, takes them through the ravages of Brian's dementia and around and over the stumbling-blocks of a medical/legal system that criminalizes assisted suicide. Ending one's own life proved to be as difficult as obtaining an abortion will undoubtedly be in a post-Roe America. "People who do wish to end their lives and shorten their period of great suffering and loss — those people are out of luck in the United States of America," Bloom writes.

Various options for a merciful unassisted death — suspension of eating and drinking, carbon monoxide poisoning, a fentanyl injection, consuming an overdose of phenobarbital — are considered and rejected. Finally, Bloom learns of Dignitas, a not-for-profit organization in Switzerland that assists those who qualify in ending their lives in a humane manner. It is "the only place in the world," she writes, "For painless, peaceful and legal suicide."

The road to Dignitas, however, was not an easy or inexpensive one to travel. Informing family members was painful. The paperwork was tedious and lengthy. Things moved at an agonizing pace. Acceptance in the program required psychiatric and neurological consultations, air travel to Switzerland, expensive hotels and meals, and a \$10,000 fee for Dignitas' services, all out of the reach of those of average means and underwritten by Bloom's wealthy sister.

Bloom writes masterfully about Brian's final hours with great emotion but void of sentimentality. The death scene near Zurich, in a stark room with a couch, a bowl of chocolates, and Amy holding her husband's hand while "her brave boy" embarks on his "long journey, miles and miles of Nought," is one of the most powerful I have read. You know what is coming, but the suspense is still gripping. During the course of the story, I had come to like and admire this courageous, love-locked couple and empathize with them in their struggles. Although I was glad Amy's quest, as she said "to shepherd him across the river," was successful, and Brian's life had finally come to a peaceful end, my heart went out to Amy in her aloneness, and I mourned for Brian as if he were a friend lost.



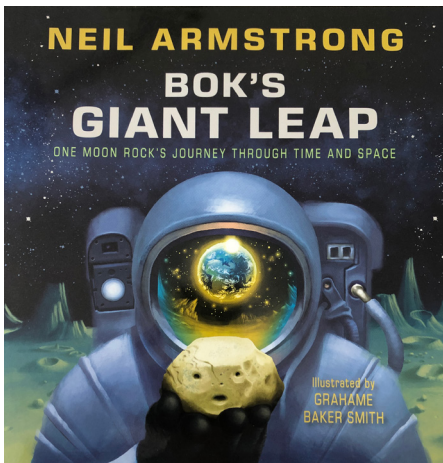


# BOK'S GIANT LEAP BY NEIL ARMSTRONG

PRESENTED BY CAROL ARMSTRONG

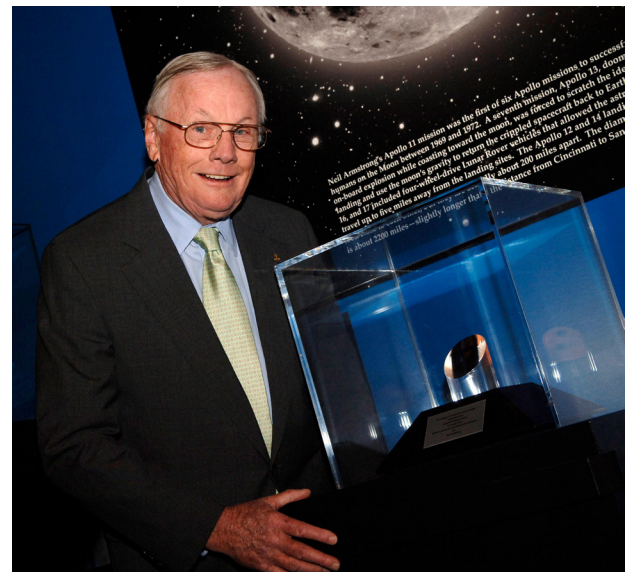
The Library Foundation is excited to present Carol Armstrong who will speak about her husband's book, *Bok's Giant Leap: One Moon Rock's Journey Through Time and Space*, in the library loggia on Tuesday, March 28, at 4 p.m.

In 2006, at the Cincinnati Museum Center, NASA honored Neil with an Ambassador of Exploration award. He spoke to the assembly about the moon rock's cosmic journey, telling a dramatic astronomical story. He humanized the moon rock and christened him Bok.



Neil's wife, Carol, facilitated the publishing of the book and hired the brilliant artist, Graham Baker Smith, as illustrator.

All proceeds from the sale of *Bok's Giant Leap* go to the Cincinnati Museum Center.



NASA Administrator Michael Griffin presented the NASA Ambassadors of Exploration award to Neil Armstrong (pictured). The award included a moon rock to recognize the sacrifices and dedication of the astronauts and others who were part of the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo programs. A former naval aviator and NASA test pilot and Apollo 11 commander, Armstrong was the first human to ever land a spacecraft on the moon and the first to step on the lunar surface. Armstrong's award was displayed at the Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal on Tuesday, April 18, 2006.

*Bok's Giant Leap* is a children's book, but Carol's talk will be geared toward adults. During the week, the library will offer hands-on science related children's activities.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2023 AT 4 PM**  
**LIBRARY LOGGIA**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT NO CHARGE  
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

When in the course of conversation with a new acquaintance, it comes out that I used to be a school teacher, the dialogue usually evolves something like the following:

"And what did you teach?"

"Romance languages and literature."

"Ah, excuse me ...?"

"French language and literature mostly ..."

"Oh, I see, and who is your favorite French writer, then?"

And so now it is my turn to seem baffled and to hesitate. Will I admit to loving Marcel Proust's three volumes of *A La Recherche du Temps Perdu* (the *Remembrance of Things Past*.) Actually, I end up saying that the very best of the lot, for all-around fun and wisdom and accessibility, is MONTAIGNE, you know, the man who invented the essay and ushered in the modern world by killing off scholasticism.

Born in 1533 in Bordeaux and dying in 1592, he lived through the bitter turbulence of the wars of religion; he was twice elected mayor of that city and counseled the Queens and Kings of his war-torn nation, urging political moderation and religious tolerance. But his ESSAIS are good for everyone, old, young, and in the middle, and they come in a variety of sizes, so if you need something to read for five or six minutes or something to hold you for a half hour or two hours, he's your man. People have immemorially

found a friend and soul-mate, a sort of second self, in this author (ask Ralph Waldo Emerson). He is philosophic and deep but always lightly so, always challenging and yet always companionable. I think that if ever there were a way to become educated without setting foot in school, college, or university, it would be to read lovingly this wonderful book of the *Essays* of Michel de Montaigne. And the good news is that you don't need to brush up your own French to begin this pleasurable undertaking—Donald Frame has translated it all into perfect English for us! Get it from the Stanford University Press or in the Everyman's Library.

Where to begin? At the beginning or at the end, or indeed anywhere else, you can't miss.

Some of the famous ones are: "Of custom" (#23); "Of the Education of Children" (#26); and certainly "Of Cannibals" (#31), all in the first book; in the second book, "Of the Inconstancy of Our Actions" (#1) and #12 (The Apology for Raymond Sebond) will keep one occupied for hours; and in the final book, try #2, #5, or #8. Any subject he brings up, he manages to deal with in ways fresh and surprising. These essays have been revered by readers all over the world for over four centuries, but not only are these essays revered, the man who wrote them has been admired and loved. The man and his oeuvre are a fine example, perhaps the finest, of French literature at the top of its game.



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Davis Hammond was born in Boston. He was educated at St. Paul's School and Harvard College where he earned a BA and a Ph.D. He taught Romance Languages and French and Italian Literature, first at Brandeis University, then at Dartmouth College, and ultimately at Exeter Academy. After retiring to Boca Grande, an old family haunt since 1947, and where he and his wife, Corinna, honeymooned in 1966, he continued to teach at the Pierian Spring Academy and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Ringling College in Sarasota. He served on the Board of Directors for the Johann Fust Library Foundation, where he is now a Literary Advisor.

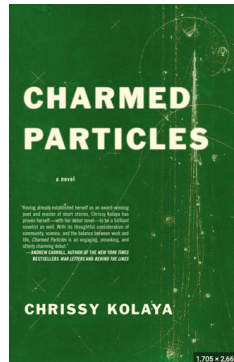


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## CREATIVE WRITING PROFESSORS & AUTHORS – IN CONVERSATION

FEATURING CHRISSY KOLAYA AND DAVID JAMES POISSANT

The Johann Fust Library Foundation is excited to present a unique program featuring two professors from the University of Central Florida in a conversation about writing. The university offers a bachelor's degree and an MFA in Creative Writing. The strength of any creative writing program depends on the talents of the faculty. Chrissy Kolaya and David James Poissant are scholars and inspired teachers, but beyond that, they are published authors. Join us in what promises to be an inspiring program for our community's readers and aspiring writers.



Chrissy Kolaya is a poet and fiction writer, author of *Charmed Particles*: a novel and two books of poems: *Any Anxious Body* and *Other Possible Lives*. Her work has been included in anthologies by Norton, Milkweed Editions, and in a number of literary journals.

Kolaya is passionate about collaboration and has worked with filmmakers and composers on adaptations of her work. Her work has been supported by grants, fellowships, and awards from the Fiction Meets Science Program at the Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg Institute for Advanced Studies in Germany, the Norman Mailer Writers Colony, the Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, the Loft Literary Center, the Minnesota State Arts Board, the Lake Region Arts Council, and the University of Minnesota. In 2021 she was one of three finalists for the position of Orlando Poet Laureate.

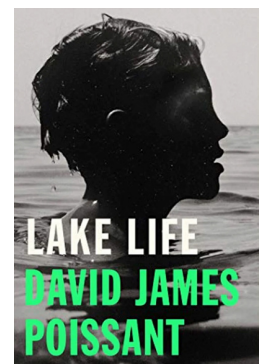
She teaches in the creative writing MFA program at the University of Central Florida, where she was awarded a 2022 Reach for the Stars Award, one of the university's highest faculty honors.

David James Poissant is the author of the novel *Lake Life* (Simon & Schuster, 2020), a *New York Times* Editors' Choice selection, *Publishers Weekly* Summer Read, an *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* Best Southern Book of 2020, and a New York Public Library Book of the Day.

His story collection *The Heaven of Animals* was a winner of the GLCA New Writers Award and a Florida Book Award, a finalist for the *L.A. Times* Book Prize, and was longlisted for the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize.

His stories and essays have appeared in *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The New York Times*, *One Story*, *Ploughshares*, *The Southern Review*, and in various textbooks and anthologies including *New Stories from the South*, *Best New American Voices*, and *Best American Experimental Writing*.

His books are currently in print in seven languages. He teaches in the MFA Program in Creative Writing at the University of Central Florida and lives in Orlando with his wife and daughters.



**TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2023 AT 4 PM IN THE LIBRARY LOGGIA**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT NO CHARGE  
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED



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# THE LIVE POET'S SOCIETY OF BOCA GRANDE

presents

## Poetry in the Garden 2023



The Live Poets of Boca Grande invite you to attend *Poetry in the Garden*. Every two years, the poets present a reading in the library loggia and courtyard. In 2020, due to the social distancing of the time, the poets read their work on Zoom, in a virtual garden.

The Johann Fust Library gardens have made a miraculous recovery from Hurricane Ian. This exciting biennial event returns to the courtyard on April 14, 2023, at 4 p.m.

The Live Poets invite you to join them in the garden to hear them read their poetry.

*This year's readings will be enhanced by the soothing music of Julie F. Cornwall on the cello.*

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### THE LIVE POETS OF BOCA GRANDE

Simonetta Balzer – Alice Gorman – Sam Holt – Candice Shy Hooper  
Lindsay Major – Bobbie Marquis – John Thomas – Nancy White

**FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2023**

**AT 4 PM**

**IN THE LIBRARY COURTYARD & LOGGIA**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT NO CHARGE

*REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED*



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"THE PESSIMIST COMPLAINS ABOUT THE WIND;  
THE OPTIMIST EXPECTS IT TO CHANGE;  
THE REALIST ADJUSTS THE SAILS."

WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD

The winds of change always arrive, bringing challenges, opportunities and time for reflection.

Mary Vickers retired in March after 20 years of dedicated service. Originally hired as a bookkeeper, she transitioned to assistant librarian under Pansy Cost's tutelage. In 2013, she joined the Lee County Library System as a Library Associate. A Boca Grande native, she knew her customers well, giving them just the right book recommendation. She moved into the digital age seamlessly, helping them access books, audio books, music and movies on their mobile devices. Always smiling, ever helpful, Mary is part of the island's fabric. We treasure her contributions and wish her all the best.

Library Associate Rebecca Schwandt now works at the Dunbar Jupiter Hammon Library, a branch in our Lee County system. This year, the children enjoyed her creative story times, on-the-table activities and eye-catching displays. Dozens of families were enthralled with her breakout box inspired by Roger and Louise Amory's book boat. She created a series of clues to solve, which opened four locks revealing a prize. She quickly embraced the island's community spirit and our delightful customers. We wish her success in her new position.

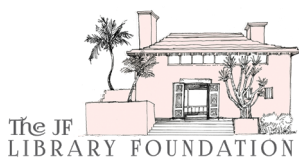


*Toni Vanover*

The library is always open, online. You can access articles, newspapers, Consumer Reports, Value Line and Morningstar reports at [www.leelibrary.net/online](http://www.leelibrary.net/online). Download magazines, movies, books and audio books on our Libby and Hoopla apps. Our newest digital resource is Kanopy. Every month you receive three credits to stream movies, documentaries, foreign films, independent films, classic cinema, educational videos and series on your television, mobile phone tablet, desktop or laptop.

We are here to assist you. See you at the library!

Toni Vanover  
Senior Librarian/Branch Manager  
Lee County Library Services



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