

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL
St. Petersburg Times
FESTIVAL
OF READING

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Festival Author and Activity Line Up

St. Petersburg, FL — The 14th Annual *St. Petersburg Times* Festival of Reading, scheduled for **Sat., Oct. 28 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**, at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg (140 7th Avenue S.) - features over 60 celebrated authors including **Arianna Huffington, Andy Borowitz, Jonathan Alter, Zane, Meg Tilly, Lynn Sherr, Howell Raines and Martina Navratilova.**

The free festival, which annually attracts thousands of book lovers, will be staged in several University buildings, including the Campus Activities Center, Davis Hall, the Florida Center for Teachers, the nearby F.W.R.I. (C.W. "Bill" Young Marine Science Complex) and the Poynter Institute.

In addition to the author talks there will be celebrity readings, an extensive Book Market, a food court, a Publix Storyland area offering many children's activities including arts and crafts, interactive games, a costumed story-book character and Halloween costume parade, kids entertainment and an appearance by SPOT the News hound — the *Times*' literacy mascot.

The first 500 persons who donate a new children's book at the "Publix Books-for-Kids Tent" will receive a voucher for two tickets to the Tampa Bay Lightning vs. Montreal Canadiens game on November 15 at the St. Pete Times Forum courtesy of the *St. Petersburg Times*. The donated books will be given to the YWCA Family Village and Community Pride.

This year's roster of authors offers a wide variety: two award-winning poets, a documentary filmmaker, a world famous tennis player, a photographer, more than a dozen novelists, nearly two dozen journalists and satirist. Satirist **Andy Borowitz** weighs in with *The Republican Playbook*, presented by ~~tbt*/Tampa Bay Times~~, which he claims he has brazenly "stolen."

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Okay, Borowitz is joshing about swiping the GOP strategy book, but festival author **Peter Wallsten** has seriously analyzed the present administration's party and its plans to hang on to power in *One Party Country: The Republican Plan for Dominance in the 21st Century*.

Martina Navratilova who, with 168 singles tennis titles holds more than any other player in history, will be sharing the secrets of her phenomenal physical and mental shape in her book *Shape Your Self*, a guide for anyone looking to live a healthy, active lifestyle. **Arianna Huffington**, co-founder and editor of the popular political Web site HuffingtonPost.com, urges women readers to be fearless. *Newsweek* political reporter **Jonathan Alter** chronicles what FDR was able to accomplish in his first 100 days in *The Defining Moment*. **Zane**, the best-selling author of black erotica, compiles *Caramel Flava*, a collection of hot Latino authors. Award-winning actress **Meg Tilly** pens *Gemma*, a gutsy new novel about child abuse. Young Adult author **William Durbin** brings to life the story of a girl who, like her grandfather, wants to be a famous cigar factory reader in *El Lector*.

Other festival authors also will offer insight into current events, including the *New Yorker's* **Jeffrey Goldberg** (*Prisoners: A Muslim and a Jew Across the Middle East Divide*) and **T.J. Waters** (*Class 11: Inside the CIA's First Post-9/11 Spy Class*).

In addition to Alter's look at the Roosevelt era, history buffs will have a number of choices: **Charles Mann's** survey of this hemisphere on the eve of Columbus' arrival (*1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus*), **Mike Pride's** examination, with survivor **Steve Raymond**, of the infamous World War II Bataan Death March (*Too Dead to Die: A Memoir of Bataan and Beyond*) and USF professor **Ray Arsenault's** chronicle of an important chapter of the civil rights movement (*Freedom Riders*). Black historian **John Hope Franklin**, who was an eyewitness to that era, will present his autobiography, *Mirror to America*.

Those who like their history in fiction form will want to catch **Steve Berry**, whose best-selling novel, *The Templar Legacy*, is steeped in medieval lore, and **Jeff Shaara**, whose latest, *The Rising Tide*, is the first of a World War II trilogy.

Or festival-goers can listen in on those who write the first draft of history: journalists. Talking about their profession and its adherents will be ABC 20-20's **Lynn Sherr** (*Outside the Box: A Memoir*),

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St. Petersburg Times editor of editorials **Phil Gailey** (*The Best of Mary McGrory*), former *New York Times* executive editor **Howell Raines** (*The One That Got Away: A Memoir*), and local WFLA radio's **Jack Harris** (*Unwrapped*).

Gailey and Raines, will be joined by Tallahassee journalist **Diane Roberts** (*Dream State: Eight Generations of Swamp Lawyers, Conquistadors, Confederate Daughters, Banana Republicans, and Other Florida Wildlife*), former *Times* editor and fellow Southerner **Eugene Patterson** and *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* managing editor, **Hank Klibanoff** (*The Race Beat: The Press, the Civil Rights Struggle, and the Awakening of a Nation*) for an additional session on the South's impact on journalism that is sure to be a big draw. And speaking of the South, biographer **Charles J. Shields**, author of *Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee*, will be on hand to talk about the reclusive author of *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

One of the most dominating topics at this year's festival is a state that is both Southern and not: Florida. A panel discussion entitled Paving Over Florida will feature filmmaker **Bill Belleville** (*Losing It All to Sprawl*), Washington Post journalist **Michael Grunwald** (*The Swamp: The Everglades, Florida, and the Politics of Paradise*) and Florida nature photographer **John Moran** (*Journal of Light*). The panel, sponsored by the Florida Humanities Council, will be moderated by USF professor **Gary Mormino**, author of *Land of Sunshine, State of Dreams: A Social History of Modern Florida*. Other books on Florida's history to be covered are **Martin Dyckman's** *Floridian of His Century: The Courage of Governor LeRoy Collins*, and **Susan Fernandez** and **Robert Ingalls'** *Sunshine in the Dark: Florida in the Movies*.

For a slice of local history, **Jon Wilson** and **Rosalie Peck** will present *St. Petersburg's Historic 22nd Street South*. And for a more irreverent look at the state, there's **Eliot Kleinberg's** *Weird Florida II: In a State of Shock*.

Florida crime, organized and otherwise, has its own weird twists, as festival authors **Jim Greenhill** (*Lords of Chaos*), **Joy Wellman** (*Rattlesnake Romeo*) and **Scott M. Deitche** (*Cigar City Mafia: A Complete History of the Tampa Underworld*) can attest. And no Florida festival would be complete without wacky Florida fiction by **Tim Dorsey** (*The Big Bamboo*), **N.M. Kelby** (*Whale Season*), **Bob Morris** (*Jamaica Me Dead*) and **Tom Corcoran** (*Air Dance Iguana*).

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Florida also has inspired crime and thriller writers **Claire Hamner Maturro**, who sets her latest, *Bone Valley*, in Manatee County; **Lisa Unger** (*Beautiful Lies*), and **Lee Irby** (*The Up and Up*), both from St. Petersburg, and Tampa lawyer **Cody Fowler Davis** (*Green 61*).

Two local poets with national reputations - St. Petersburg's **Peter Meinke** (*The Contracted World*) and Tampa's **Enid Shomer** (*Short Stories, Long Poems: Creating Character in Fiction and Poetry*) - will be presenting.

Tom Drury (*The Driftless Area*), **Eric Kraft** (*Taking Off*), **A. Manette Ansay** (*Blue Water*), **Kit Reed** (*The Baby Merchant*), **Eliot Schrefer** (*Glamorous Disasters*) and **Mary Jacobsen** (*Blood Sisters*) will offer readings from their novels.

Interested in writing your own book? The Poynter Institute's **Roy Peter Clark** (*Writing Tools: 50 Essential Strategies for Every Writer*) will be staging a workshop and a Write In, where the audience will have a chance to create a "little book."

In addition to **Martina Navratilova**, Sports fans will want to catch talks by **Pete Williams** (*The Draft: A Year Inside the NFL's Search for Talent*) and **Mark Yost** (*Tailgating, Sacks, and Salary Caps: How the NFL Became the Most Successful Sports League in History*).

Those interested in business should check out **Eve Tahmincioglu** (*From the Sandbox to the Corner Office: Lessons Learned on the Journey to the Top*). But for those looking to leave the fast lane, there's Kids in the Country columnist **Faith Andrews Bedford**, (*Barefoot Summers*), reflecting on home, family and simple pleasures. And if one of your simple pleasures is a dog, trainer **Brian Kilcommon** (*My Smart Puppy*) can provide tips on how to raise a well-adjusted one.

Festivalgoers can learn about fringe religious movements with **J.C. Hallman** (*The Devil is a Gentleman*), discuss death and how we face it with **Michael Largo** (*Final Exits*) or ponder how height affects a person's success with **Stephen Hall**, the author of *Size Matters*. According to his official biography, **Doug Wilhelm** is 6 feet, 10 inches tall, but what really matters is that he will be presenting his latest children's book, *The Revealers*, at the festival. Wilhelm is joined by three other Sunshine State award winners: **Gail Langer Kaworski** (*Quake! Disaster in San Francisco, 1906*), **Laura Ruby** (*Lily's Ghost*) and **Roland Smith** (*Cryptid Hunters*).

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Fans of the St. Petersburg Times will have the opportunity to meet with several feature writers and critics, including Real Florida writer **Jeff Klinkenberg**, film critic **Steve Persall**, TV/Media critic **Eric Deggans**, pop music critic **Sean Daly**, performing arts critic **John Fleming** and fine arts critic Lennie Bennett.

An author reception and fundraising event to benefit the *Times*' Newspaper in Education program, **A Novel Night**, will take place on **Friday, October 27 from 6-8:30 p.m.** at the Renaissance Vinoy Resort. Reservations are required and \$50 general admission or \$150 patron tickets can be purchased by calling (727) 892-2264. A patron ticket includes an autographed copy of one of several featured books as well as preferred seating at the headliner presentations at the Festival on Saturday.

A complete schedule of the author appearances is available online at FestivalofReading.com and will be published in a Times Festival of Reading special section in the *St. Petersburg Times* on Thursday, October 26, 2006.

Sponsors of the St. Petersburg Times Festival of Reading include The Renaissance Vinoy Resort & Golf Club, Publix Super Markets, Barnes and Noble College Bookstores, USF St. Petersburg, All Star Limo, The New Magic 94.9 and Tampa Bay's 10 News. Support also comes from the City of St. Petersburg, The Poynter Institute for Media Studies, the Florida Humanities Council, tbt*/Tampa Bay Times, WUSF Public Broadcasting and WMNF, the Kiwanis, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners.

For questions, the public can leave a message at the Festival Hotline (727) 892-2358.

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Photos on request.