



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fall Favorites, Fresh Faces, Fiction Fans: Concord Festival of Authors Kicks Off October 8

Concord, MA — Mark your calendars! The [Concord Festival of Authors](#) (CFA), presented by the Friends of the Concord Free Public Library, kicks off three unforgettable weeks of literary events across town from **October 8 to 29**. From romance to mystery, history to memoir, this year's festival packs twenty events into three weeks — something for every kind of reader.

Opening Events

Romance takes center stage as the festival opens with the **Meet Cute Book Club**, featuring author **Emily Martin** discussing her newest novel, *Winner Takes All* — **Thursday, October 8, 6:30 pm**, Concord Free Public Library (CFPL) Goodwin Forum.

A week later, biographer **Carla Kaplan** brings her acclaimed *Troublemaker: The Fierce, Unruly Life of Jessica Mitford* — a finalist for both the PEN/Jacqueline Bograd Weld Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award — to the CFPL Goodwin Forum on **Thursday, October 15, 6:00 pm**.

Barefoot Books joins the celebration **Saturday, October 17 at 10:30 am** with **Christy Mihaly**. That same day, the **Debut Authors Panel** introduces first-time novelists Laura Garden, Meghana Mysore, and Abigail Savitch-Lew, moderated by Danielle Bradley, the library's 2026 Writer-in-Residence — **Saturday, October 17, 2:00 pm**, Fowler Branch. **Umbrella Arts** hosts a special talkback, following the **2pm** performance of *I and You* on **Sunday, October 18**, a perfect pairing for anyone who loves both literature and theater.

A Full Week of Author Talks

The festival hits its stride with authors on the podium in the CFPL Goodwin Forum, the Fowler branch, at Wright Tavern and the Colonial Inn:

- **Monday, October 19, 6:00 pm** — Steve Edwards on *Rare Good: Essays on Art, Autism, and Astonishment* — CFPL Goodwin Forum
- **Wednesday, October 21, 2:00 pm** — Book-A-Mystery with Dr. Jennifer Brown on *The Lost Book of Elizabeth Barton*, a dual-timeline murder mystery set in an English country manor — Fowler Branch
- **Thursday, October 22, 6:00 pm** — The Robbins House presents Willie Mae Brown, author of *My Selma* — CFPL Goodwin Forum
- **Friday, October 23, 1:30 pm** — Afternoon Tea Book Club with Tara Lynn Masih on her new novel *The Silent Women*, followed by Q&A and a book signing — Fowler Branch

- **Saturday, October 24, 8:30 - 10:00 am**--Breakfast with the Authors, returning as a popular CFA ticketed event at Concord's Colonial Inn. Moderated by local author and physician, Dr. Suzanne Koven, featuring Christopher Castellani, Gish Jen and Hester Kaplan.
- **Saturday, October 24, 2:00 pm**--Poetry at the Library features Nate Klug and Catherine Stearns—CFPL Goodwin Forum
- **Monday, October 26, 6:00 pm** — Julie Carrick Dalton on *The Forest Becomes Her*, a story of friendship and reckoning set in a forest not unlike Concord's own — CFPL Goodwin Forum
- **Tuesday, October 27, 6:00 pm** — Jenn Bouchard & Kathleen Reidy team up for "Writing New England," a conversation on craft, setting, and coastal storytelling—CFPL Goodwin Forum
- **Wednesday, October 28, 11:30 am** — Fowler in Fact with Brooke Barbier on *Cocked and Boozy: An Intoxicating History of the American Revolution* — Wright Tavern

Partner Programs Explore Even More

Concord's cultural community always adds thoughtful dialogue and depth to the festival:

- **Tuesday, October 20, 7:00 pm — Concord Museum:** Historian Peter Mancall discusses *Contested Continent*, a sweeping new history of North America from 1000 to 1680.
- **Wednesday, October 21, 7:00 pm — Walden Woods Project:** Illustrator Matt Patterson shares *Wildlife in Focus*, a look at his adventures in art and conservation — with a wine & cheese reception beforehand.
- **Friday, October 23, 7:00 pm — Thoreau Alliance:** Author Kathleen Kelly explores *Thoreau's Journal Drawings*, revealing the visual side of Thoreau's naturalist genius. Hosted at Concord Art Association.
- **Saturday, October 24, 4:00 pm — Barrow Bookstore:** Dr. Linda Booth Sweeney gets the buzz going with *Do Bees Pee?*, a laugh-out-loud picture book about nature's waste-free systems. Available in person or via Zoom.
- **Sunday, October 25, 7:00 pm — Transcendentalism Council of First Parish:** *Thoreau Was a Philosopher, and Chances Are, You Are, Too* — a lively look at Thoreau's philosophical legacy, in person and livestreamed from First Parish Church.
- **Wednesday, October 28, 7:00 pm — Concord Art Association:** Novelists Joan Silber (*Mercy*) and Karen E. Bender (*The Words of Dr. L*) read from their newest work, followed by a Q&A.

Grand Finale

The festival wraps up with its ever-popular **Mystery Night**, moderated by Concord's own Kate Flora and featuring panelists Joseph Finder, Jule Selbo, and Janet Raye Stevens — **Thursday, October 29, 6:00 pm**, CFPL Goodwin Forum.

Join the Celebration

Most events are free with registration, unless otherwise noted. For the full schedule and to register, visit concordfestivalofauthors.org and download the program guide.

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