

Preliminary Program

2023

SATURDAY OVERVIEW

ORIENTATION

11:30 AM New Attendee Orientation Venue TBD

LUNCH

11:00 – 12:30 PM Lunch Lower Lawn

CONFERENCE OPENS

12:30 – 1:30 PM Tracy K. Smith Pavilion

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

2:00 – 3:00 PM Anne Applebaum Venue TBD
Aleksandra Crapanzano Venue TBD
Michelle Kaufman Venue TBD
Patrick Radden Keefe Venue TBD
Annie Lowrey Venue TBD
Emily St. John Mandel Venue TBD
Laura Wilson Venue TBD

COCKTAIL HOUR

3:30 – 5:30 PM No-Host Bar Beverage Tent

PAVILION

3:30 – 4:45 PM Ed Yong with Ezra Klein Pavilion & Lawn
5:15 – 6:30 PM Abraham Verghese Pavilion & Lawn

The Nature of Truth

Day One

New Attendee Orientation

11:30 AM | Venue TBD

Lunch

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM | Lower Lawn

Tracy K. Smith

A POETRY READING

12:30 – 1:30 PM | Pavilion

To begin our time together, come hear the luminous poet **TRACY K. SMITH** as she takes us on a magical journey. A former U.S. Poet Laureate and winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, someone *The New York Times* calls “one of the most important poets working today,” Smith has an uncanny range. In tones both profound and playful, her poems deal with large existential questions about life and death and confront the enduring wounds of racism, while they can also be filled with sensual delight and the pleasures of love and food. She will read from her latest collection, *Such Color, New and Selected Poems*, her first career-spanning volume, and initiate the 2023 Sun Valley Writers' Conference with her singular voice.

Anne Applebaum

UKRAINE, THE EUROPEAN UNION, AND NATO

2:00 – 3:00 PM | Breakout Session | Venue TBD

Join Pulitzer Prize-winning historian **ANNE APPLEBAUM**, one of the world's leading experts on Eastern European politics, for a fascinating talk about the history and consequences of Ukraine's changing relationships with the E.U. and NATO, and what this might tell us about the future of Europe.

Aleksandra Crapanzano

GATEAU: THE SURPRISING SIMPLICITY OF FRENCH CAKES

2:00 – 3:00 PM | Breakout Session | Venue TBD

In her charming new cookbook *Gâteau*, James Beard Award-winning food writer **ALEKSANDRA CRAPANZANO** reveals the secret simplicity of the cakes Parisians make at home. She will share stories from her childhood in Paris and how it informed a life of cooking and writing. We'll learn about the pleasures and craziness of writing cookbooks, entertaining, and belonging to two very different countries—and of owning a dog with a French passport.

Michelle Kaufman

TALES FROM A WOMAN SPORTSWRITER

2:00 – 3:00 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION | VENUE TBD

As a pioneering woman sports reporter, **MICHELLE KAUFMAN** has seen and covered it all: fourteen Olympics, six World Cups, many Wimbledons, U.S. Opens, Super Bowls, World Series, NBA Finals, and NCAA Final Fours. She has traveled the globe from China and Russia to South Africa and Cuba to Canada and Brazil. Name a country and Kaufman has been there following one athletic contest or another, including the thrilling rise of women's soccer. Kaufman will tell us about her career: how she began; the grit and savvy required to be on the road; the toughest events and athletes she's covered; and the most exhilarating moments.

Patrick Radden Keefe

EMPIRE OF PAIN: THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE SACKLER DYNASTY

2:00 – 3:00 PM | Breakout Session | Venue TBD

Award-winning journalist **PATRICK RADDEN KEEFE** will tell a grand, devastating, all-too-true story of three generations of the Sackler family, famed for their philanthropy, whose fortune was built by Valium and whose reputation was destroyed by OxyContin. It is the tale of a second Gilded Age, a study of impunity among the super-elite, and a relentless investigation of the naked greed that built one of the world's great fortunes. Radden Keefe is not only one of the finest investigative journalists working today, he is also a master storyteller. So prepare yourselves for a real-life version of the HBO series *Succession*.

Annie Lowrey

THE POST-PANDEMIC ECONOMY

2:00 – 3:00 PM | Breakout Session | Venue TBD

We live in very strange economic times. The stock market, inflation, housing prices, bank failures, the cost of eggs—everything feels volatile in this post-pandemic world. No one has written more incisively about the current economic landscape than *The Atlantic* staff writer **ANNIE LOWREY**. Why is our banking system so prone to crisis that once a decade the authorities must step in to save it? Why have the U.S. economy and job creation been so resilient despite the turmoil in financial markets? Why is housing so expensive, and what can be done about it? And how did the pandemic transform attitudes toward work in the U.S.? In conversation with **LIAQUAT AHAMED**, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Lords of Finance*, Lowrey will help us understand what is going on and how we, as a country and as individuals, can navigate these days of economic uncertainty.

Emily St. John Mandel

ART, TIME, TRAVEL, LOVE, AND PLAGUE: THE FICTION OF
EMILY ST. JOHN MANDEL

2:00 – 3:00 PM | Breakout Session | Venue TBD

EMILY ST. JOHN MANDEL's new novel, *Sea of Tranquility*, is a tale of art, time travel, love, and plague that takes the reader from Vancouver Island in 1912 to a dark colony on the moon 500 years later, unfurling a story of humanity across centuries and space. In conversation with **JENNY EMERY DAVIDSON**, Executive Director of The Community Library, Mandel will talk about the fascinating process of creating, out of nothing but words and intuition, the worlds and journeys of her literary imagination.

Laura Wilson

STORIES IN PORTRAITS: LAURA WILSON AND THE GREAT WRITERS SHE
HAS PHOTOGRAPHED

2:00 – 3:00 PM | Breakout Session | Venue TBD

Inspired by the classic photo essays that once appeared in LIFE magazine, renowned photographer **LAURA WILSON** spent a dozen years making her dynamic and insightful portraits of some of the world's most acclaimed writers, including Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Haruki Murakami, Margaret Atwood, Louise Erdrich, Carlos Fuentes, Zadie Smith, Seamus Heaney, Edwidge Danticat, Tom Stoppard, and many others. Join Wilson for a slideshow filled with very personal and unexpected stories from her remarkable literary and photographic odyssey.

No-Host Bar

3:30 – 5:30 PM | Beverage Tent

Ed Yong with Ezra Klein

AN IMMENSE WORLD: A CONVERSATION

3:30 – 4:45 PM | Pavilion and Lawn

Pulitzer Prize-winning science journalist **ED YONG** discusses his new bestselling book, *An Immense World*, with *The New York Times* columnist and podcast host **EZRA KLEIN**. As the author describes it, and as Klein will investigate and articulate in his own way, Earth teems with sights and textures, sounds and vibrations, smells and tastes, and electric and magnetic fields. But every kind of animal, including humans, is enclosed within its unique sensory bubble, perceiving but a tiny sliver of our immense world.

Abraham Verghese

ABRAHAM VERGHESE AND THE COVENANT OF WATER

5:15 – 6:30 PM | Pavilion & Lawn

More than a decade in the writing, **ABRAHAM VERGHESE**'s second novel spans the years 1900 to 1977. It is set in Kerala, on South India's Malabar Coast, where it follows three generations of a family that suffers a peculiar affliction: in every generation, at least one person dies by drowning—and in Kerala, water is everywhere. A shimmering evocation of a bygone India and of the passage of time itself, *The Covenant of Water* is a hymn to progress in medicine and a testament to the difficulties undergone by past generations for the sake of those alive today. Join Verghese—a deeply admired author and a physician with a reputation for his focus on healing at a time when technology often overwhelms the human side of medicine—for a talk about his new book, his life, and his work.

SUN VALLEY WRITERS' CONFERENCE

SUNDAY OVERVIEW

BREAKFAST

8:30 – 9:30 AM Continental Breakfast Lodge Terrace

PAVILION

9:30 – 10:30 AM Hernan Diaz, Mohsin Hamid,
and Emily St. John Mandel
with Ayad Akhtar Pavilion & Lawn

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM Jennifer Homans Pavilion & Lawn

LUNCH

12:00 – 2:00 PM Lunch Lower Lawn

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

2:00 – 3:00 PM Dave Barry and Alexandra Petri Venue TBD
Jonathan Escoffery and Venue TBD
Sarah Thankam Mathews
Robert Kagan Venue TBD
Patrick Radden Keefe Venue TBD
Curtis Sittenfeld Venue TBD
Tracy K. Smith Venue TBD

COCKTAIL HOUR

3:30 – 5:30 PM No-Host Bar Beverage Tent

PAVILION

3:30 – 4:30 PM Maria Hinojosa, Evan Osnos,
and Imani Perry with Judy Woodruff Pavilion & Lawn

5:00 – 6:00 PM David Grann Pavilion & Lawn

The Nature of Truth

Day Two

Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 9:30 AM | Lodge Terrace

Hernan Diaz, Mohsin Hamid,
and Emily St. John Mandel
with Ayad Akhtar

ALTERNATE WORLDS: THE LITERARY IMAGINATION AT WORK

9:30 – 10:30 AM | Panel Discussion | Pavilion & Lawn

Prize-winning author **AYAD AKHTAR** moderates a panel with three of today's most exciting novelists—**HERNAN DIAZ**, **MOHSIN HAMID**, and **EMILY ST. JOHN MANDEL**. In their work, each writer engages with real-world issues—the pandemic, race, money, climate change—but spins them into fictional magic in the alternate worlds they create, alerting, alarming, and dazzling us in equal measure. They will talk about their recent books, their storytelling ambitions, and the writers and thinkers who have influenced them most.

Jennifer Homans

GEORGE BALANCHINE'S 20TH CENTURY

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Pavilion & Lawn

Arguably the greatest choreographer who ever lived, George Balanchine was one of the cultural titans of the 20th century. His radical approach to choreography—and life—reinvented the art of ballet and made him a legend. **JENNIFER HOMANS**, the dance critic for *The New Yorker* and a former dancer herself, spent more than a decade researching Balanchine's life and times to write *Mr. B*, her magisterial, engrossing history of the 20th century through the lens of one of its most influential artists. On her own and in conversation with **PETER BOAL**, Artistic Director of Pacific Northwest Ballet, Homans will guide us through Balanchine's tumultuous and high-pitched life story and into the making of his extraordinary dances.

Lunch

12:00 – 2:00 PM | Lower Lawn

Dave Barry and Alexandra Petri

HOW HUMOR WRITING HAS CHANGED SINCE BUCHWALD, BAKER,
AND BOMBECK

2:00 – 3:00 PM | Breakout Session | Venue TBD

A couple of generations apart, **DAVE BARRY** and **ALEXANDRA PETRI** both cut their literary teeth writing humor columns for major newspapers, *The Miami Herald* and *The Washington Post*, respectively. Join two of the best and funniest humor writers in the business as they sit down for a lively discussion of how things have changed since the old days, what it's like to write breaking humor from today's campaign trail, some of their more surprising relationships with readers, and other secrets of the craft.

Jonathan Escoffery and Sarah Thankam Mathews

SVWC 2023 NEW VOICES FELLOWS

2:00 – 3:00 PM | Breakout Session | Venue TBD

Nothing is more exciting than reading a dazzling debut novel. So we are showcasing two of the very best: *If I Survive You* by **JONATHAN ESCOFFERY**, a finalist for the 2023 Pen/Faulkner Award, and *All This Could Be Different* by **SARAH THANKAM MATHEWS**, shortlisted for the 2023 National Book Award. Escoffery's book, a collection of linked stories, was hailed in a starred *Kirkus* review as a "sharp and inventive debut . . . that looks at the complexities of cultural identity with humor, savvy, and a rich sense of place." Mathews's story of a first-generation queer millennial in Milwaukee was a *New York Times Book Review* Editor's Choice, the reviewer noting her "big heart and sharp tongue . . . (and) a wonderful eye for the things that make friendship and community just as valuable as romance." Escoffery and Mathews will talk with writer **ANNE TAYLOR FLEMING** about their literal and literary roots, the daunting excitement of success, and what is next in their writing lives.

Robert Kagan

THE GHOST AT THE FEAST: AMERICA AND THE COLLAPSE OF WORLD ORDER, 1900-1941

2:00 – 3:00 PM | Breakout Session | Venue TBD

To intervene or not to intervene: that is the question this country has continually faced since becoming a major player on the international stage. No one has written with more perception and passion about this moral and strategic dilemma than **ROBERT KAGAN**, an advocate for America's active presence in the world. His new book is the deeply researched story of American foreign policy in the first four decades of the 20th century. He will talk about the book, about those foundational years, and the early and ongoing tensions between isolationism and engagement.

Patrick Radden Keefe

ROGUES: TRUE STORIES OF GRIFTERS, KILLERS, REBELS, AND CROOKS

2:00 – 3:00 PM | Breakout Session | Venue TBD

PATRICK RADDEN KEEFE has garnered prizes ranging from the National Magazine Award to the Orwell Prize to the National Book Critics Circle Award for his meticulously reported, hypnotically engaging work on the many ways people behave badly. Join him for an hour of stories about what he calls his “abiding preoccupations: crime and corruption, secrets and lies, the permeable membrane separating licit and illicit worlds, the bonds of family, the power of denial.”

Curtis Sittenfeld

ROMANTIC COMEDY: A CONVERSATION WITH CURTIS SITTENFELD

2:00 – 3:00 PM | Breakout Session | Venue TBD

In bestselling author **CURTIS SITTENFELD**'s much-loved new novel, she explores—with her typically keen observations and trademark ability to bring complex women to life on the page—the neurosis-inducing and heart-fluttering wonder of love, while slyly dissecting the social rituals of romance and gender relations in the modern age. Sittenfeld sits down with SVWC Literary Director **JOHN BURNHAM SCHWARTZ**—a former professor of hers at the Iowa Writers' Workshop, as it happens—to discuss what makes *Romantic Comedy* a romantic comedy, her approach to genre and craft in previous novels such as *American Wife*, *Rodham*, and *Eligible*, and other stories from her literary journey.

Tracy K. Smith

WHERE DOES A POEM COME FROM?

2:00 – 3:00 PM | Breakout Session | Venue TBD

Who better to answer that question than **TRACY K. SMITH**, a former U.S. Poet Laureate and winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. She has written four books of poems and most recently has published a career-spanning collection: *Such Color: New and Selected Poems*. But where did the magic begin? Where did the germinating idea or image, word or phrase behind these poems come from? Smith will tell us and help us understand the intersection between inspiration and craft and share some stories from her two terms as U.S. Poet Laureate, when she traveled across America hosting poetry readings and conversations in rural communities.

No-Host Bar

3:30 – 5:30 PM | Beverage Tent

Maria Hinojosa, Evan Osnos, and Imani Perry with Judy Woodruff

AMERICA AT A CROSSROADS: WHY WE ARE SO DIVIDED AND WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT

3:30 – 4:30 PM | Panel Discussion | Pavilion & Lawn

In the time since she stepped down as PBS *NewsHour*'s anchor, **JUDY WOODRUFF** has been engaged in a national reporting project, traveling and listening to people talk about their fears and their hopes. She will share some of her early findings with three other passionate observers of this country: Pulitzer Prize winner **MARIA HINOJOSA**, Anchor and Executive Producer of *Latino USA*; National Book Award winner **EVAN OSNOS**, who chronicled his own transnational reporting journey in *Wildland, the Making of America's Fury*; and **IMANI PERRY**, 2022 National Book Award-winning author of *South to America: A Journey Below the Mason-Dixon to Understand the Soul of a Nation*. They will look at the complicated issues that divide us—race, immigration, and inequality—and talk about the beliefs and values that still hold the country together.

David Grann

THE WAGER: A TALE OF SHIPWRECK, SURVIVAL, AND SAVAGERY

5:00 – 6:00 PM | Pavilion & Lawn

It seems that every book that award-winning *New Yorker* staff writer **DAVID GRANN** writes (*Killers of the Flower Moon*, *The Lost City of Z*) turns into a bestseller and then into an excellent major movie or TV series. There's a reason: he is one of our greatest chroniclers of true stories of endurance, bravery, hubris, malevolence, and moral conflict. Join Grann for the story behind his riveting new book—a grand 18th-century tale of human behavior at the extremes, in which not only the captain and crew of the ship *The Wager* ended up on trial, but also the very idea of empire.

SUN VALLEY WRITERS' CONFERENCE

MONDAY OVERVIEW

BREAKFAST

8:30 – 9:30 AM Continental Breakfast Lodge Terrace

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

9:30 – 10:30 AM
Andrea Elliott Venue TBD
David Grann Venue TBD
Mohsin Hamid Venue TBD
Terry McDonell Venue TBD
Liz Neeley and Ed Yong Venue TBD
Javier Zamora Venue TBD

PAVILION

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM Anne Applebaum, Robert Kagan, and Evan Osnos Pavilion & Lawn

LUNCH

12:00 – 2:00 PM Lunch Lower Lawn

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

2:00 – 3:00 PM
Hernan Diaz Venue TBD
Maria Hinojosa Venue TBD
Al Hunt and Judy Woodruff Venue TBD
Ezra Klein Venue TBD
Alexandra Petri Venue TBD
Imani Perry Venue TBD
Abraham Verghese Venue TBD

COCKTAIL HOUR

3:30 – 5:30 PM No-Host Bar Beverage Tent

PAVILION

3:30 – 4:30 PM Jake Barton Pavilion & Lawn
5:00 – 6:00 PM Dave Barry Pavilion & Lawn

CONFERENCE CLOSES

6:00 – 7:00 PM Closing Reception Pavilion Upper Lawn

The Nature of Truth

Day Three

Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 9:30 AM | Lodge Terrace

Andrea Elliott

INVISIBLE CHILD: POVERTY, SURVIVAL & HOPE IN AN AMERICAN CITY

9:30 – 10:30 AM | Breakout Session | Venue TBD

Dasani. Do you remember that name? She became the poster child for how poverty, race, and the moral failings of our institutions impact the most marginal among us, in particular, one poor Black child in New York. She first came to our attention in the pages of *The New York Times* due to investigative reporter **ANDREA ELLIOTT**'s extraordinary, detailed, and dogged efforts. Dasani's story became the basis of Elliott's 2022 Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *Invisible Child*, as eye-opening as it is heartbreaking. In conversation with another Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist and playwright **AYAD AKHTAR**, Elliott will tell us about Dasani's life and how it is both singular and emblematic, and talk about her own passions for the deeply immersive journalism that is the hallmark of her professional life.

David Grann

THE WHITE DARKNESS: ADVENTURE AND OBSESSION IN THE ANTARCTIC

9:30 – 10:30 AM | Breakout Session | Venue TBD

Henry Worsley was a decorated British S.A.S. officer with a lifelong obsession with Ernest Shackleton, the 19th-century polar explorer, who tried to become the first person to reach the South Pole, and later sought to cross Antarctica on foot. In 2015, at age 55, Worsley bid farewell to his family and embarked on the perilous quest to walk across Antarctica alone. Author **DAVID GRANN**, who originally wrote about Worsley for *The New Yorker*, will be in conversation with novelist and screenwriter **JOHN BURNHAM SCHWARTZ**, who is one of the writers of the Apple TV show, starring Tom Hiddleston, that is currently being made of Grann's book *The White Darkness*. The conversation will open a window into Grann's writing process, both investigative and imaginative.

Mohsin Hamid

THE LAST WHITE MAN

9:30 – 10:30 AM | Breakout Session | Venue TBD

One morning, a man wakes up to find that his skin has turned dark and that the reflection in the mirror seems a stranger to him. At first he shares his secret only with an old friend turned new lover. Soon, reports of similar transformations begin to surface. Across the land, people are awakening in new incarnations, uncertain how their neighbors, friends, and family will greet them. These are the catalyzing events of *The Last White Man*, the latest novel by internationally acclaimed writer **MOHSIN HAMID**, who will speak to PBS *NewsHour*'s **JEFFREY BROWN** about his fiction and the themes of loss, race, identity, and connection to which he keeps returning.

Terry McDonell

IRMA: THE EDUCATION OF A MOTHER'S SON

9:30 – 10:30 AM | Breakout Session | Venue TBD

Sons often seem to reckon with their fathers—in life and in art. It is rarer to read a grown man's memoir about his mother, especially one full of gratitude and admiration. That's why **TERRY MCDONELL**'s book is special—a son remembering the plucky, hardworking single mom who helped see him through a tough childhood and adolescence as a bright, cocky, mid-century American male growing up in California. He didn't give his mother's life much thought back then, he says, but came to realize how much her resilience, love, and quiet feminism shaped him and helped him become the person he is—a proud father of two and one of the country's legendary magazine editors. In conversation with author **ANNE TAYLOR FLEMING**, McDonell will talk about the memoir, about mothers and sons, and raising two boys of his own.

Liz Neeley and Ed Yong

MAKE IT MAKE SENSE: SCIENCE COMMUNICATION IN TIMES OF CRISIS

9:30 – 10:30 AM | Breakout Session | Venue TBD

We are living through multiple simultaneous global crises, so vast and complex that they seemingly defy sense. During such times, good communication can help people understand the brutal realities of the present while equipping them with the necessary hope for a brighter future. Drawing from their decades of experience, from conservation to COVID reporting, science communicator and founder of Liminal Creations **LIZ NEELEY** and Pulitzer Prize-winning science writer **ED YONG** will discuss the art and science of sense-making in a time of crisis and why it's crucial to the challenges that we face.

Javier Zamora

SOLITO: A MEMOIR

9:30 – 10:30 AM | Breakout Session | Venue TBD

In 1999, a nine-year-old boy left his tiny village in El Salvador to join his parents who had emigrated to America some years before. His astonishing nine-week, 3,000-mile journey, without friends or family, is the heart of **JAVIER ZAMORA's** riveting memoir. He writes in the pitch-perfect voice of that child as he makes his perilous way, on foot, by boat, bus, and truck, recalling moments of true terror and unexpected tenderness. In conversation with legendary bookseller **MITCHELL KAPLAN**, Zamora will speak about the book, how he was finally able to write it, about trauma, healing, and hope, and becoming the celebrated poet and writer he is.

Anne Applebaum, Robert Kagan, and Evan Osnos

WILL DEMOCRACY SURVIVE?

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Panel Discussion | Pavilion & Lawn

ANNE APPLEBAUM, ROBERT KAGAN, and EVAN OSNOS—three of our most cogent and influential writers on global affairs and history—sit down to discuss the geopolitical ramifications of Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, the ongoing battle between democracy and authoritarianism, Vladimir Putin's endgame, China's power plays, and the future of the Western alliance, among other urgent questions.

Lunch

12:00 – 2:00 PM | Lower Lawn

Hernan Diaz

TRUST: A NOVEL ABOUT MONEY, MARRIAGE, AND THE NATURE OF STORYTELLING ITSELF

2:00 – 3:00 PM | Breakout Session | Venue TBD

Winner of the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, **HERNAN DIAZ's** *Trust* is a wholly original and sophisticated look at the intricacies and history of the American financial system. Told through multiple narratives of Wall Street tycoon Benjamin Rask and his wife Helen, an “it” couple of the 1920s, the book is a riveting mystery about their marriage, their fortune—and who ultimately gets to tell their story. Diaz will discuss his book with **LIAQUAT AHAMED**, its overlapping themes, and why money is such a beguiling subject for a writer.

Maria Hinojosa

ONCE I WAS YOU: A MEMOIR

2:00 – 3:00 PM | Breakout Session | Venue TBD

In her powerful memoir, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **MARIA HINOJOSA** shares her own turbulent life story as a woman with deep connections to two countries and one who made it to the highest levels of broadcast journalism in this one. Her voice is known to us from PBS, CBS, CNN, and NPR, among other outlets, including Futuro Media, the independent, nonprofit newsroom she founded. In the memoir, Hinojosa writes with frankness and humor of her family's immigration from Mexico and her lifelong passionate commitment to telling the immigrant story from the inside out. She will talk about the book, the arc of her career, and America's complex—often fraught—relationship with those who cross our borders.

Al Hunt and Judy Woodruff

JOURNALISM UNDER THREAT: WHY IT MATTERS

2:00 – 3:00 PM | Breakout Session | Venue TBD

No two journalists are more respected and more conversant with the complicated state of their profession than husband and wife **AL HUNT** and **JUDY WOODRUFF**. She is a senior correspondent and former anchor of the PBS *NewsHour*, and he is a former *Bloomberg News* columnist and current podcast host of *The Politics War Room*. As they look around the country and the globe, they see how journalism is being threatened in many places—from small-town U.S.A., where local media outlets have often disappeared, to the myriad countries where reporters are being silenced. In conversation with **ANNE TAYLOR FLEMING**, Hunt and Woodruff will reflect on the state of journalism and its fundamental place in any democracy and share some hopeful, inspiring stories of reporters—many of them women now—who are doing brave and amazing work to bring us the stories we need to hear.

Ezra Klein

EZRA KLEIN ON A.I.

2:00 – 3:00 PM | Breakout Session | Venue TBD

In the past year, perhaps no public intellectual has thought as hard or as deeply about the potential benefits and dangers of artificial intelligence—ChatGPT and its myriad siblings and cousins—as **EZRA KLEIN**. On his podcast and in his columns for *The New York Times*, Klein continues to ask urgent, necessary questions about the direction and pace of technological advancements in A.I., their ethical, cultural, and economic implications, and whether, as he has written and will speak about today, we may, in fact, be in “a potentially brief interregnum before the pace of change accelerates to a rate that is far faster than is safe for society.”

Alexandra Petri

ALEXANDRA PETRI'S U.S. HISTORY

2:00 – 3:00 PM | Breakout Session | Venue TBD

So, you think you know U.S. history—the drama, the players, the presidents. Wait until you read **ALEXANDRA PETRI**'s laugh-out-loud reinvention. In her new book, *The Washington Post* humor columnist has spun the known narrative of our revered past through her fertile, hilarious brain and given us a satirical take: one where John and Abigail Adams try sexting; the March sisters from *Little Women* are 60 feet tall; and the characters from *Sesame Street* invade Normandy, for starters! She will talk about the book and how she hatched the various ideas and tell us about the joys and pressures of having to be funny on a deadline.

Imani Perry

SOUTH TO AMERICA: A JOURNEY BELOW THE MASON-DIXON TO UNDERSTAND THE SOUL OF A NATION

2:00 – 3:00 PM | Breakout Session | Venue TBD

In her National Book Award-winning book, writer and Princeton professor **IMANI PERRY** takes us on a trip home to Alabama and points south in a desire not just to understand that region but, indeed, the country. Her book, a wholly original meld of memoir, reportage, and history, is filled with wonderful, odd portraits of Southerners from all walks of life. Perry says the South has been singularly demonized, allowed to take the rap for the sins of racism the rest of the nation shares. In conversation with the *PBS NewsHour*'s **JEFFREY BROWN**, she will talk about the book, what surprised her in her travels, and what gave her hope.

Abraham Verghese

QUESTION AND ANSWER WITH ABRAHAM VERGHESE

2:00 – 3:00 PM | Breakout Session | Venue TBD

If one happens to be like **ABRAHAM VERGHESE**, a bestselling author, a renowned physician, and Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine at Stanford University, then you are likely to be the recipient of more questions than most. So, here's your chance to have your questions answered by the man himself, whether they be about his beautiful new novel *The Covenant of Water*, set over 77 years in Kerala, on South India's Malabar Coast; his previous books; his profound thoughts on the practice of bedside medicine; his surprisingly competitive tennis game; or really, anything else.

No-Host Bar

3:30 – 5:30 PM | Beverage Tent

Jake Barton

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT:
THE STORYTELLING REVOLUTION

3:30 – 4:30 PM | Pavilion & Lawn

Much as we champion books and language at SVWC, we also believe in the experiential power of storytelling to create transformation in any form. As Founder of the experience design firm Local Projects, **JAKE BARTON** has time and again reinvented storytelling, winning every major design award with projects like the 9/11 Memorial and Museum in New York City; Bryan Stevenson's The Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama; The Greenwood Rising Black Wall Street History Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Planet Word and Frank Gehry's Eisenhower Memorial, both in Washington, D.C. His gift and life's work is to use technology to create unforgettable narratives that inspire action through immersive storytelling of the most human kind. An electrifying speaker, Barton will unpack how his storytelling work changes audiences and how he is now focusing on the most formidable storytelling challenge there is—the existential problem of climate change.

Dave Barry

SWAMP STORY: DAVE BARRY'S FLORIDA

5:00 – 6:00 PM | Pavilion & Lawn

Frank McCourt Memorial Lecture

Closing this year's Conference with the 2023 SVWC Frank McCourt Memorial Lecture, **DAVE BARRY**, one of the funniest writers alive, will, in his own words, "talk a little about my new novel *Swamp Story*, but mainly to use it as a springboard to talk about Florida, because everybody seems interested in Florida these days, in the sense of wondering what the hell is going on down here. From there I'd like to branch out to the problems facing the nation in general, and what I would do to fix them if I had the authority, which we should all pray I never will. The one promise I can make is that nobody will come away from my talk with any useful information."

Closing Reception

6:00 – 7:00 PM | Pavilion Upper Lawn

We invite all Conference guests and writers to join us on the Pavilion Lawn for a complimentary glass of wine immediately following the last presentation. Let's celebrate the written word and *The Nature of Truth*.