



**SUN VALLEY WRITERS' CONFERENCE**





# Origin Stories

**PRELIMINARY PROGRAM**

*Saturday, July 20 – Monday, July 22, 2024*

**PRESENTATION OVERVIEW**

# Saturday, July 20

<b>TIME</b>	<b>PRESENTERS</b>	<b>VENUE</b>	
12:30 – 1:30 PM	Kristin Hannah with Jenny Emery Davidson	Venue TBD	
	Dennis Lehane with John Burnham Schwartz	Venue TBD	
	Tiya Miles	Venue TBD	
	John Vaillant	Venue TBD	
	Mikhail Zygar with Liaquat Ahamed	Venue TBD	
2:00 – 3:00 PM	Jonathan Eig	Venue TBD	
	Padma Lakshmi with Rachel Tung	Venue TBD	
	Anne Lamott	Venue TBD	
	Ayana Mathis with Pamela Paul	Venue TBD	
	Jeffrey Rosen with Willy Walker	Venue TBD	
3:30 – 4:45 PM	Paul Muldoon	Pavilion	 
5:15 – 6:15 PM	Margaret Atwood with Ayad Akhtar	Pavilion	 

**LEGEND**



Single Event Ticket Presentation



Free Lawn Seating

**LIVESTREAMING**

For livestream info please visit:

**[svwc.com/livestream](https://svwc.com/livestream)**

# Origin Stories: Day One

## Typewriter Rodeo

9:00 AM – 12:30 PM | PAVILION LAWN

## New Attendee Orientation

11:30 AM | TENT A

## Lunch

See Events insert for time and location.

## Art & Words Exhibition Tour

11:45 AM – 12:15 PM | PAVILION WEST TERRACE

## Kristin Hannah with Jenny Emery Davidson

UNFORGETTABLE HEROINES

12:30 – 1:30 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION | VENUE TBD

You can hear the buzzing excitement whenever a new novel is out from **KRISTIN HANNAH**. So it is with *The Women*, her latest, which debuted at #1 on *The New York Times Best Sellers* list. The author of *The Nightingale* and *Four Winds* has given us another compelling heroine, young Frances “Frankie” McGrath, who leaves her sheltered Southern California girlhood to become a combat nurse in Vietnam as the war rages. Brave in the face of death and heartbreak, she returns to a deeply divided America that wants to forget everything about Vietnam. In conversation with **JENNY EMERY DAVIDSON**, head of The Community Library in Ketchum, Hannah will talk about *The Women* and how the idea for the book first captured her.

# Dennis Lehane with John Burnham Schwartz

ON WRITING TV SERIES VS WRITING FICTION

**12:30 – 1:30 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION | VENUE TBD**

Crime novelist and TV writer/producer **DENNIS LEHANE** (TV: *Black Bird*, *The Outsider*, *Mr. Mercedes*; Books: *Small Mercies*, *Mystic River*, *Gone Baby Gone*, *Shutter Island*) will talk to fellow novelist and screenwriter **JOHN BURNHAM SCHWARTZ** about how he approaches writing books vs TV scripts, his advice for writing true crime stories, as well as his journey developing his latest show, the AppleTV+ limited series *Black Bird*.

# Tiya Miles

HARRIET TUBMAN AND THE FAITH DREAMS OF A FREE PEOPLE

**12:30 – 1:30 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION | VENUE TBD**

Harriet Tubman is among the most famous Americans ever born and soon to be the face of the twenty-dollar bill. Yet often she's a figure more out of myth than history, almost a comic-book superhero. Despite being barely five feet tall, unable to read, and suffering from a brain injury, Tubman managed to escape from her enslavement; return again and again to lead others north to freedom without loss of life; speak out powerfully against slavery; and then become the first American woman in history to lead a military raid, freeing some seven hundred people. You could almost say she was America's Robin Hood, a miraculous vision, often rightly celebrated but seldom understood. Award-winning historian **TIYA MILES**, the author of two recently published books on Tubman, will show us the real Harriet Tubman behind the myth.

# John Vaillant

FIRE WEATHER

**12:30 – 1:30 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION | VENUE TBD**

In May 2016, Fort McMurray, the hub of Canada's oil industry and America's biggest foreign supplier, was overrun by wildfire. Through the lens of this apocalyptic conflagration—the wildfire equivalent of Hurricane Katrina—award-winning author **JOHN VAILLANT** warns that this was not a unique event, but a shocking preview of what we must prepare for in a hotter, more flammable world. In his talk—as he did in his book, one of the most critically lauded of the past year—Vaillant will take us on a riveting journey through the intertwined histories of North America's oil industry and the birth of climate science, to the unprecedented devastation wrought by modern forest fires, and into lives forever changed by these disasters.

# Mikhail Zygar with Liaquat Ahamed

CAN DEMOCRACY EXIST IN RUSSIA? A BRIEF HISTORY

**12:30 – 1:30 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION | VENUE TBD**

In 1912, Russia experienced a flowering of liberalism and tolerance that placed it at the forefront of the modern world: women were fighting for the right to vote in the elections for the newly empowered parliament; Russian art and culture were the envy of Europe; and there was a vibrant free press and intellectual life. But a fatal flaw was left uncorrected: Russia's exuberant experimental moment took place atop a rotten foundation. The old imperial order, in place for three hundred years, still held the nation in thrall. Russian journalist **MIKHAIL ZYGAR**, author of the book *The Empire Must Die*, will talk to Pulitzer Prize-winning author **LIAQUAT AHAMED** about how the collapse of the Russian Empire changed the course of the twentieth century and eerily anticipated the mood of the twenty-first and whether democracy can ever exist in modern-day Russia.

# Jonathan Eig

KING: A LIFE

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

With his new book about Martin Luther King, the first major biography in decades of the civil rights leader, author **JONATHAN EIG** reminds us of a brilliant biographer's extraordinary and necessary contribution. The author of six previous books, he resurrects King from myth and history and brings him to vivid life, with all his emotional complexity and his unwavering courage. This deeply researched book (Eig had access to recently declassified FBI files) is both riveting and moving, a portrait of a leader who changed race relations in this country and thus, the country itself. Eig will talk about King's life and legacy and about why he wrote this book now.

# Padma Lakshmi with Rachel Tung

PADMA LAKSHMI TASTES THE NATION

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

In her Emmy-nominated series *Taste the Nation*, **PADMA LAKSHMI** takes us on a magical journey across America, introducing us to the rich and diverse food cultures of various immigrant groups and finding people who have deeply influenced the way we all eat. The food expert, author, television host, and executive producer of *Top Chef* for 19 seasons, she proves an enticing guide through this big, multiethnic country. In conversation with *Taste the Nation* showrunner **RACHEL TUNG**, Lakshmi will talk about what it took to make the show and divulge some of the funny, surprising moments that happened behind the scenes—and share with us a few of the mouthwatering things she ate along the way.

## Anne Lamott

THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ANNE LAMOTT'S *BIRD BY BIRD*

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

There is no more admired and adored book on writing than **ANNE LAMOTT**'s classic, *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*. It has charmed and enlightened more than a million readers for three decades, from students to accomplished authors. With her signature warmth, wit and laugh-out-loud humor, Lamott gently imparts advice on how to get those elusive, pesky words down, one at a time. The author of multiple novels and nonfiction books, including her most recent, *Somehow: Thoughts on Love*, she will light up the room—or tent—with some instructions on writing and life.

## Ayana Mathis with Pamela Paul

THE UNSETTLED

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

**AYANA MATHIS'** debut novel, *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie*—chosen for Oprah's Book Club—introduced us to a luminous new literary talent. In her follow-up, *The Unsettled*, Mathis shows again that she is that rare, fearless writer able to deal with large themes of race and injustice while offering intimate family stories that go straight at the heart. Named one of the best books of the year by *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, *The Unsettled* is a gripping multigenerational story set in racially turbulent Philadelphia and in the tiny town of Bonaparte, Alabama. In conversation with New York Times Op-ed columnist **PAMELA PAUL**, Mathis will talk about her new novel, her craft, and some of the themes that haunt her.

# Jeffrey Rosen with Willy Walker

THE FOUNDING FATHERS AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

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

What did the American Founders mean by the famous phrase, “the pursuit of happiness”? In his entertaining and fascinating new book, **JEFFREY ROSEN** says they didn't mean feeling good but rather doing good, leading lives of purpose and virtue, values that became the foundation of our democracy. It is a restorative narrative for our time. In conversation with **WILLY WALKER**, host of *The Walker Webcast*, Rosen will take us into the minds—and the moral contradictions—of six of our most influential Founders.

## Cocktails

See Events insert for time and location.



# Paul Muldoon

A POETRY READING BY PAUL MULDOON

**3:30 – 4:45 PM | PAVILION**

There has never been a time when the poet's voice was more necessary, to offer wisdom, whimsy, and balm for our sorrows, especially if such a voice belongs to the celebrated Irish-born poet **PAUL MULDOON**. Described as “the most significant English-language poet born since the Second World War” and “one of the great poets of the past hundred years,” he has won myriad awards, among them the Pulitzer Prize. With his magical range and musical ear, Muldoon has written about hedgehogs and cauliflowers, about birth and death, and he will inaugurate our festival with a reading of some of his most beloved poems, including selections from his upcoming collection, *Joy in Service on Rue Tagore*. Welcome to the poetic launch of SVWC 2024.

# Margaret Atwood with Ayad Akhtar

MARGARET ATWOOD: WRITER IN THE WORLD

**5:15 – 6:15 PM | PAVILION**



**MARGARET ATWOOD**, author of more than 60 books in almost every conceivable genre, recipient of more than 100 literary prizes from around the world, is a global icon. Like Kafka and Orwell before her, she and her writing have become part of the public discourse, wherever we live and whatever our age. Atwood's intelligence is that vital and exacting, her wit that mischievous, her concerns—from birds to the human condition, from environmentalism to feminism, from the lessons of history to social justice—that urgently relevant. She has quoted a Polish resistance fighter from the Second World War who once told her: “Pray that you will never have the occasion to be a hero.” As it has turned out, Atwood has indeed had the occasion, not just once, and never has she failed to rise to its challenges. She is our hero. After receiving the 2024 SVWC Writer in the World Prize, Atwood will talk to Pulitzer Prize-winning writer **AYAD AKHTAR** about her life, her work, and some of the many wonders and terrors of the world we are living in.

**PRESENTATION OVERVIEW**

# Sunday, July 21

<b>TIME</b>	<b>PRESENTERS</b>	<b>VENUE</b>	
9:00 – 10:00 AM	Kristin Hannah, Maggie O'Farrell & Ayana Mathis with Pamela Paul	Pavilion	
10:30 – 11:30 AM	Kaveh Akbar & Vinson Cunningham with Anne Taylor Fleming	Venue TBD	
	Rabbi Sharon Brous with Jeffrey Goldberg	Venue TBD	
	Alejandra Campoverdi	Venue TBD	
	Drew Gilpin Faust with Andrea Elliott	Venue TBD	
1:00 – 2:00 PM	James Shapiro with Ayad Akhtar	Venue TBD	
	Justice Stephen Breyer with Jeffrey Rosen	Venue TBD	
	Rabbi Sharon Brous	Venue TBD	
	Dennis Lehane with Jeffrey Brown	Venue TBD	
	David Miliband with Andrea Elliott	Venue TBD	
2:30 – 3:30 PM	Ruth Reichl with Aleksandra Crapanzano	Venue TBD	
	Judy Blume with Jeffrey Brown	Pavilion	 
	4:00 – 5:00 PM	Niall Ferguson with Evan Osnos	Pavilion
5:15 – 6:15 PM	Erik Larson	Pavilion	 

**LEGEND**

-  Single Event Ticket Presentation
-  Free Lawn Seating

**LIVESTREAMING**

For livestream info please visit: [svwc.com/livestream](https://svwc.com/livestream)

# Origin Stories: Day Two

## Breakfast

See Events insert for time and location.

## Kristin Hannah, Maggie O'Farrell, and Ayana Mathis with Pamela Paul

INVESTIGATING THE PAST: WRITING THE HISTORICAL NOVEL TODAY

**9:00 – 10:00 AM | PAVILION**

Hilary Mantel once wrote, “The writer of history is a walking anachronism, using today’s techniques to try to know things about yesterday that yesterday didn’t know itself. She must try to work authentically, hearing the words of the past, but communicating in a language the present understands. I start to practice my trade at the point where the satisfactions of the official story break down.” Three of our most incisive and successful contemporary novelists whose work often engages with history—**MAGGIE O’FARRELL**, **KRISTIN HANNAH**, and **AYANA MATHIS**—will sit down with New York Times columnist and former Book Review editor **PAMELA PAUL** for a frank discussion about Mantel’s observations, their own books, and how and why they write what they do.

# Kaveh Akbar and Vinson Cunningham with Anne Taylor Fleming

SVWC 2024 NEW VOICES FELLOWS

10:30 – 11:30 AM | BREAKOUT SESSION | VENUE TBD

No two debut novels in 2024 have generated as much unanimous praise and excitement as **KAVEH AKBAR**'s *Martyr!* and **VINSON CUNNINGHAM**'s *Great Expectations*. These ambitious, piercingly smart books are both intellectually and emotionally captivating. *Martyr!* tracks a newly sober son of Iranian immigrants as he embarks on a gritty, hilarious, poignant search for family, guided by the voices of artists, poets and kings. *The New York Times Book Review* says: "What Akbar pulls off in *Martyr!* is nothing short of miraculous." In *Great Expectations*, Cunningham gives us another man on a search, a young, Black college dropout who goes to work on a historical presidential campaign (an unnamed Obama), an autobiographical novel *The Washington Post* calls "a coming-of-age story that captures the soul of America." In conversation with **ANNE TAYLOR FLEMING**, Akbar and Cunningham will talk about their books, their writing lives—Akbar is a highly regarded poet and Cunningham is a staff writer and film critic at *The New Yorker*—and why they have turned to fiction.

# Rabbi Sharon Brous with Jeffrey Goldberg

MORAL EARTHQUAKES AND HOW WE TALK ABOUT THEM

10:30 – 11:30 AM | BREAKOUT SESSION | VENUE TBD

At a time when polarization around the world has never been greater, **SHARON BROUS**, author and leading American rabbi, will talk with **JEFFREY GOLDBERG**, editor in chief of *The Atlantic*, about the extraordinary challenges posed at every level of society—social, familial, individual—by the most difficult and intractable moral issues. How do we begin to talk honestly and effectively with each other, for example, about Israel and Gaza? How do we talk about politics and the monumental election facing us a few months from now? Freedom of speech? Religion, race, gender? As the founding rabbi of IKAR in Los Angeles, one of the most diverse, fastest growing and influential Jewish communities in the nation, Rabbi Brous has spent the last 20 years trying to foster conversations and thoughtfulness that can see us through these seemingly impossible times.

# Alejandra Campoverdi

FIRST GEN: ONE LATINA'S REMARKABLE JOURNEY

**10:30 – 11:30 AM | BREAKOUT SESSION | VENUE TBD**

In her brave and buoyant memoir, **ALEJANDRA CAMPOVERDI** writes about the emotional and literal hurdles she encountered as a first gen Latina breaking a number of generational cycles. Her life has been full of amazing contradictions. Raised on welfare by an immigrant single mother in Los Angeles, Campoverdi has been a White House aide to President Obama and a gang member's girlfriend. She's ridden in stolen cars and on Air Force One and is now a nationally recognized women's health advocate. Campoverdi will talk about her life and the unique challenges faced by "First and Onlys" and share her advice for those following in her footsteps.

# Drew Gilpin Faust with Andrea Elliott

DREW GILPIN FAUST: THE EDUCATION OF AN EDUCATOR

**10:30 – 11:30 AM | BREAKOUT SESSION | VENUE TBD**

Before becoming an award-winning Civil War historian and the first woman president of Harvard University, **DREW GILPIN FAUST** grew up in conservative, segregated Virginia at a time when a privileged white girl was expected to adopt a willful blindness to the inequities of race and the constraints of gender, an acceptance of female subordination and racial hierarchy that she found intolerable and galvanizing. Faust will talk to Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **ANDREA ELLIOTT** about how, during the 1960s, she forged a path of her own—one that would eventually lead her to become a historian and educator deeply engaged with some of the most urgent moral issues of our, or any other, era.

## 1ST BREAKOUT SESSION

# James Shapiro with Ayad Akhtar

THE PLAYBOOK:

A STORY OF THEATER, DEMOCRACY, AND THE MAKING OF A CULTURE WAR

**10:30 – 11:30 AM | BREAKOUT SESSION | VENUE TBD**

From 1935 to 1939, the Federal Theatre Project staged over a thousand productions in twenty-nine states that were seen by thirty million (or nearly one in four) Americans, two-thirds of whom had never seen a play before. It employed over twelve thousand struggling artists, some of whom, like Orson Welles and Arthur Miller, would soon be famous, but most of whom were just ordinary people eager to work again. And yet, the Federal Theatre was the first New Deal project to be attacked and ended on the grounds that it promoted “un-American” activity, sowing the seeds not only for the McCarthyism of the 1950s but also for our own era of merciless polarization. Celebrated Shakespeare scholar **JAMES SHAPIRO** will talk to Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright **AYAD AKHTAR** about this little-known but important slice of history and what it tells us about the enduring power of the theater as perhaps our most democratic art form.

## Lunch

**11:30 AM – 1:00 PM | LUNCH VILLAGE**

## Typewriter Rodeo

**11:30 AM – 1:00 PM | PAVILION LAWN**

## Art & Words Exhibition Tour

**12:15 – 12:45 PM | PAVILION WEST TERRACE**

# Justice Stephen Breyer with Jeffrey Rosen

READING THE CONSTITUTION:  
WHY I CHOSE PRAGMATISM, NOT TEXTUALISM  
**1:00 – 2:00 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION | VENUE TBD**

Given the enormous focus these days on the United States Supreme Court, you will not want to miss retired Supreme Court **JUSTICE STEPHEN BREYER**'s talk about his new book. It offers a clear and brilliant analysis of the difference between the textualist philosophy of the Court's current supermajority and the pragmatism that is Breyer's own guiding principle. In a wide-ranging conversation with **JEFFREY ROSEN**, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Constitution Center, Breyer will talk about some of the most important cases in the nation's history, including the 2022 Dobbs and Bruen decisions that he believes were wrongly decided and have led to harmful results.

# Rabbi Sharon Brous

ANCIENT WISDOM AND THE ENDURING POWER OF COMMUNITY  
**1:00 – 2:00 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION | VENUE TBD**

What will it take to mend our broken hearts and rebuild our society in a time of loneliness and isolation, social rupture and alienation? **SHARON BROUS**, a leading American rabbi, will make the case that it is through honoring our most basic human instinct—the yearning for real connection—that we reawaken our shared humanity and begin to heal. A preacher and storyteller, Brous will pair heart-driven anecdotes from her experience building and pastoring to a leading-edge faith community over the past two decades with ancient Jewish wisdom and contemporary science. Hers is a clarion call: the sense of belonging engendered by our genuine presence is a social and biological need, and a moral and spiritual necessity.

# Dennis Lehane with Jeffrey Brown

DENNIS LEHANE ON HIS LATEST DETECTIVE MYSTERY

1:00 – 2:00 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION | VENUE TBD

Like his classic detective novel *Mystic River*, **DENNIS LEHANE**'s latest is an all-consuming tale of revenge, family love, festering hate, and insidious force. Set against the hot, tumultuous summer of 1974, when Boston's desegregation of its public schools exploded in violence, *Small Mercies* is a riveting depiction of criminality and power, and an unflinching portrait of the dark heart of American racism. Lehane will talk to *PBS NewsHour*'s **JEFFREY BROWN** about the book, about Boston and busing, and about what history and fiction, together, can tell us about ourselves.

# David Miliband

WE CANNOT LOOK AWAY

1:00 – 2:00 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION | VENUE TBD

According to the United Nations, there are now 110 million people on the move around the globe as a result of conflict or disaster. They have been forced to relocate, leaving their homes and often their countries. It is an extraordinary number, one destined to grow. We are reminded by **DAVID MILIBAND**, President and CEO of the global relief organization the International Rescue Committee (IRC), that there is much work to be done—that can and must be done—to help the displaced find ways to survive and start new lives. That is his life's work and passion. In conversation with Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times* journalist **ANDREA ELLIOTT**, Miliband will share remarkable stories of resilience and hope and what we all can do to make a difference.



# Ruth Reichl with Aleksandra Crapanzano

RUTH REICHL: THE PARIS NOVEL

**1:00 – 2:00 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION | VENUE TBD**

**RUTH REICHL**, one of our best-known and well-loved food writers, is the author of five memoirs, including *Tender at the Bone* and *Save Me the Plums*. She is also a captivating novelist and, as you might imagine, her fiction is full of many sensory pleasures. In her delightful new book, the protagonist Stella is left with an unusual inheritance: a one-way plane ticket and a note reading “Go to Paris.” But Stella is hardly cut out for adventure; a traumatic childhood has confined her to the strict routines of her comfort zone. Reichl will talk to fellow food writer **ALEKSANDRA CRAPANZANO** about this novel that so entertainingly celebrates the city they both adore, and the many reasons for living deliciously, taking chances, and finding your true home.

# Judy Blume with Jeffrey Brown

THE RADICAL HONESTY OF JUDY BLUME

**2:30 – 3:30 PM | PAVILION**

There are writers who continue to feel bold, and magical, and necessary decade after decade. So it is with the legendary **JUDY BLUME**, the author of twenty-five books for young readers and four novels for adults that have sold more than ninety million copies in forty languages. Her cherished, groundbreaking young adult novel, *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*, has captivated and enlightened girls (and their parents) from 1970, the year it was published, right through last year, when the adaptation of that book hit movie screens. In a warm, wide-ranging conversation with her friend **JEFFREY BROWN** of the *PBS NewsHour*, Blume will talk about her life and work.

## Cocktails

See Events insert for time and location.

# Niall Ferguson with Evan Osnos

WHAT WOULD KISSINGER DO?

**4:00 – 5:00 PM | PAVILION**

No U.S. secretary of state ever achieved such celebrity while in office as Henry Kissinger; immersed in the philosophy of Kant and the diplomacy of Metternich, he was hailed as one of the most important strategic thinkers America has ever produced. Yet no former secretary of state has been more vehemently criticized, most notably for sins of omission and commission in countries such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, Chile, and East Timor. Renowned historian **NIALL FERGUSON**, now completing the second of his two-volume biography of Kissinger, talks to journalist **EVAN OSNOS** about his subject's complicated legacy and, casting a hard eye at current crises around the world, considers what Kissinger might have made of our current foreign policy landscape.

# Erik Larson

ERIK LARSON: NEVER SAY NEVER

**5:15 – 6:15 PM | PAVILION**

How does a guy who swore repeatedly that he would never write about the Civil War end up writing a book about the Civil War? **ERIK LARSON**, a master of narrative nonfiction, will talk about how, contrary to his own conviction, he ended up writing *The Demon of Unrest*, his enthralling account of the chaotic months between Lincoln's election and the Confederacy's shelling of Fort Sumter—a period marked by tragic errors and miscommunications, enflamed egos and craven ambitions, personal tragedies and betrayals. The book is a political horror story that captures the forces that led America to the brink—a dark reminder that we often don't see a cataclysm coming until it's too late.

PLEASE JOIN US MONDAY . . .

# SVWC 2024 Closing Reception

**JULY 22 | 5:30 – 6:30 PM**

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.

## PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

# Monday, July 22

TIME	PRESENTERS	VENUE	
9:30 – 10:30 AM	Padma Lakshmi & Ruth Reichl with Aleksandra Crapanzano	Pavilion	
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Justice Stephen Breyer with Evan Osnos	Venue TBD	
	Jonathan Eig, Drew Gilpin Faust & Tiya Miles with Todd Purdum	Venue TBD	
	Jean Hanff Korelitz with Martha Williams	Venue TBD	
	Tommy Orange with Jenny Emery Davidson	Venue TBD	
1:30 – 2:30 PM	Mikhail Zygar with Jeffrey Goldberg	Venue TBD	
	Margaret Atwood with Louise Dennys	Venue TBD	
	Firoozeh Dumas	Venue TBD	
	Erik Larson	Venue TBD	
	Paul Muldoon	Venue TBD	
	Maggie O'Farrell & James Shapiro with John Burnham Schwartz	Venue TBD	
3:00 – 4:00 PM	John Vaillant	Venue TBD	
	Niall Ferguson, David Miliband & Clarissa Ward with Jeffrey Goldberg	Pavilion	 
4:30 – 5:30 PM	Anne Lamott	Pavilion	 

## LEGEND



Single Event Ticket Presentation



Free Lawn Seating

## LIVESTREAMING

For livestream info please visit:  
[svwc.com/livestream](https://svwc.com/livestream)

Program schedule is subject to change.

# Origin Stories: Day Three

## Breakfast

See Events insert for time and location.

## Padma Lakshmi and Ruth Reichl with Aleksandra Crapanzano

**BEST MEAL EVER: FOOD AND LIFE WITH PADMA LAKSHMI  
AND RUTH REICHL**

**9:30 – 10:30 AM | PAVILION**

Join two celebrated food storytellers, **PADMA LAKSHMI** and **RUTH REICHL**, as they talk about their love of food and how that love has defined their professional lives and informed their memories. They will tell us why they decided to write about food and share the details of memorable meals that they prepared or shared—with parents, children, lovers or friends—and how those meals shaped their lives (with one disastrous meal thrown in for humorous measure). In conversation with their fellow food writer **ALEKSANDRA CRAPANZANO**, they will talk about their food-centric memoirs and the creative intersection between writing and cooking, and they will give us a list of their favorite cookbooks. If you love to eat and you love to read, you will love this literary meal.

# Justice Stephen Breyer with Evan Osnos

THE SUPREME COURT AND THE PERIL OF POLITICS

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION | VENUE TBD

That confidence in the United States Supreme Court is at an all-time low is a fact of great concern to many, especially retired Supreme Court **JUSTICE STEPHEN BREYER**. There is no better person to shed an insider's light on the workings of the high Court and the competing judicial philosophies that appear to be at war within its walls. In conversation with New Yorker staff writer **EVAN OSNOS**, Justice Breyer will analyze what is going on and what can and should be done—or not—to restore faith in the highest court in the land.

# Jonathan Eig, Drew Gilpin Faust, and Tiya Miles with Todd Purdum

THE HISTORIAN'S CALLING

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION | VENUE TBD

Join three exceptional, award-winning historians: **JONATHAN EIG**, author of the recent biography *King: A Life*; **DREW GILPIN FAUST**, author of *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War*; and **TIYA MILES**, author of *All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, A Black Family Keepsake*, among many other books, for a wide-ranging conversation with veteran journalist and author **TODD PURDUM** about why they do what they do, how they find their topics, the surprising joys of their craft, how and when they really know they have found the truth in the story they are telling, the responsibility of the historian, and more.

## Jean Hanff Korelitz with Martha Williams

THE PLOT'S THE THING

**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION | VENUE TBD**

Novelist **JEAN HANFF KORELITZ** has the uncanny ability to write about messy moral human dilemmas with the skill of a master mystery writer. The author of *You Should Have Known* (adapted for HBO as the smash TV hit *The Undoing*) and *The Plot* (adaptation forthcoming from Hulu), Korelitz has given us a series of literary page-turners including her most recent, *The Latecomer*, the gripping story of three siblings and the upending of their family by the late arrival of a fourth. In conversation with **MARTHA WILLIAMS** of The Community Library in Ketchum, the author will share her novelistic secrets with us: how she combines her passion for intricate plots with characters of such psychological depth.

## Tommy Orange with Jenny Emery Davidson

TOMMY ORANGE: WANDERING STARS

**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION | VENUE TBD**

The extraordinary gifts and eloquent despair of **TOMMY ORANGE** were apparent in his knockout debut novel, *There There*, a story about the lives of urban Native Americans. His new book, *Wandering Stars*, is a heart-searing follow-up, a centuries-spanning epic of a family surviving the long-term effects of massacre and forced assimilation. Through his vividly drawn characters, Orange, an enrolled member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes, is telling us a profound part of the American Story. In conversation with **JENNY EMERY DAVIDSON**, Executive Director of The Community Library in Ketchum, Orange will talk about the new book and why he must tell these stories.

## 1ST BREAKOUT SESSION

# Mikhail Zygar with Jeffrey Goldberg

PUTIN, NAVALNY, UKRAINE, AND THE FUTURE OF RUSSIA

**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION | VENUE TBD**

The author of a seminal book about Putin, *All the Kremlin's Men*, and the founding editor in chief of what was Russia's most truth-telling opposition news channel, TV Rain, **MIKHAIL ZYGAR** is a journalistic hero to many in Russia. Now living and writing in the U.S. after fleeing persecution by Putin, he continues to cover the most troubling stories of his homeland with unmitigated courage and razor-sharp intelligence. Zygar will speak to **JEFFREY GOLDBERG**, editor in chief of *The Atlantic*, about the state of all things Putin, the legacy of the murdered political dissident Alexei Navalny, and his recent book *War and Punishment: Putin, Zelensky, and the Path to Russia's Invasion of Ukraine*.

## Lunch

**12:00 – 1:30 PM | LUNCH VILLAGE**

## Typewriter Rodeo

**12:00 – 1:30 PM | PAVILION LAWN**

## Art & Words Exhibition Tour

**12:45 – 1:15 PM | PAVILION WEST TERRACE**



# Margaret Atwood with Louise Dennys

BURNING QUESTIONS WITH MARGARET ATWOOD  
1:30 – 2:30 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION | VENUE TBD

As she demonstrated so brilliantly in her collection of essays published during the pandemic, the iconic **MARGARET ATWOOD** has a funny, erudite, endlessly curious, and uncannily prescient take on almost everything, from whether or not *The Handmaid's Tale* is a dystopia to the importance of how to define granola to the question of how we might live on our planet to why people everywhere, in all cultures, tell stories. Here she will be in conversation with her longtime friend and editor **LOUISE DENNYS**. Bring your own questions for the author to this session, as long as they are burning.

# Firoozeh Dumas

FROM JOY TO GRIEF AND BACK AGAIN  
1:30 – 2:30 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION | VENUE TBD

**FIROOZEH DUMAS** is used to being funny. But when her husband left their longtime marriage, the author of *Funny in Farsi* and *It Ain't So Awful, Falafel* was capsized by grief, the deepest, darkest grief she had ever experienced. The year was 2022 and it was, as she tells us in *Sob*, her one-hour *Audible.com* audio story, the worst year of her life, one that left her crumpled in unstoppable tears. In what will no doubt be a magical one-woman performance piece, Dumas will read that story to us—carrying us through the sorrow to the light and laughter on the other side.

# Erik Larson

THE KISMETIC ORIGINS OF THE DEVIL IN THE WHITE CITY

**1:30 – 2:30 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION | VENUE TBD**

On the eve of the publication of what would become one of his best-known books, *The Devil in the White City*—a story about the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago and the cunning serial killer who used the magic and majesty of the fair to lure his victims to their death—**ERIK LARSON** was utterly convinced that his career was over. In this talk, he will take us back to that time in his writing life and share with us what happened.

# Paul Muldoon

THE LYRICS OF PAUL MCCARTNEY

**1:30 – 2:30 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION | VENUE TBD**

In 2015, the celebrated Irish poet **PAUL MULDOON** was enlisted by another celebrated Paul—Sir Paul McCartney—to help him put together a unique kind of autobiography, one told through the stories of McCartney's lyrics. In this remarkable, one-of-a-kind book, which Muldoon edited, there are the texts of 154 Paul McCartney songs with first-person accounts of where the songs came from and the people who inspired them. *The Lyrics* is a captivating look at creativity, where it springs from, and how it works. Join Muldoon as he talks about the book and how he came to be involved with it, and the storytelling genius of one of our greatest songwriters.

# Maggie O'Farrell and James Shapiro with John Burnham Schwartz

HOW AND WHY SHAKESPEARE MATTERS TODAY

**1:30 – 2:30 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION | VENUE TBD**

**MAGGIE O'FARRELL's** prize-winning, heartbreaking novel *Hamnet* imagines the emotional, domestic, and artistic repercussions after William Shakespeare and his wife lose their only son, 11-year-old Hamnet, to the bubonic plague in 1596. Four years later, the boy's father transposes his grief into his masterpiece—titled with a common variant of his son's name—in which the father dies, and the son lives to avenge him. **JAMES SHAPIRO**, one of the most celebrated Shakespeare scholars writing today, has an extraordinary understanding of Shakespeare's work. These two brilliant authors, coming from different sides of the literary house, will join SVWC Literary Director **JOHN BURNHAM SCHWARTZ** for a passionate and wide-ranging conversation about how and why Shakespeare, arguably more than any writer in history, matters today.

## John Vaillant

JOHN VAILLANT: ECOLOGICAL STORIES

**1:30 – 2:30 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION | VENUE TBD**

All three of **JOHN VAILLANT's** award-winning, nonfiction books are narratively riveting stories that take us directly into one of the most morally urgent and consequential questions of our time: namely, how we negotiate the intensifying collisions between human ambition and the natural world. *The Golden Spruce* told the story of an anti-logger who took a drastic measure: felling a tree sacred to the Haida people to raise awareness about the dangers of cutting down many more trees elsewhere. *The Tiger* followed a hunt for a man-eater in the frozen wastes of the Russian taiga. Whereas these earlier books were about finding an accommodation with nature, *Fire Weather* is about what happens when none can be found. Vaillant will talk about these and other ecological stories from his fascinating career.

# Niall Ferguson, David Miliband, and Clarissa Ward with Jeffrey Goldberg

ON THE FRONTLINES OF CHAOS

**3:00 – 4:00 PM | PAVILION**

There are many days now when parts of the world order seem to be well and fully coming apart at the seams. Join four of our most engaged and perceptive thinkers: historian **NIALL FERGUSON**, author of *Doom: The Politics of Catastrophe*; **JEFFREY GOLDBERG**, editor in chief of *The Atlantic*; **DAVID MILIBAND**, President and CEO of the International Rescue Committee; and **CLARISSA WARD**, CNN's chief international correspondent for an honest and illuminating conversation about the root causes of recent wars in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, the humanitarian crises that they have sparked, and what the West should and can do to relieve them.

## Cocktails

See Events insert for time and location.

# Anne Lamott

PAPER SHIPS: READING, WRITING AND REASON TO LIVE

**4:30 – 5:30 PM | PAVILION**

**Frank McCourt Memorial Lecture**

We close our 30th anniversary gathering with the singular voice of **ANNE LAMOTT**, giving the 2024 Frank McCourt Memorial Lecture, an appropriate grace note as both were beloved foundational members of this Conference. Over the past decades, Lamott's many fiction and nonfiction books have touched on faith and family and loss and love, moving millions with their signature humor and honesty. She will reflect on what books, poetry, and good writing have meant to all of us, and their essential place in our lives, offering salvation and community, the very reason we are here together in Sun Valley.

**Typewriter Rodeo**  
**5:30 – 6:30 PM | PAVILION LAWN**

**Closing Reception**  
**5:30 – 6:30 PM | PAVILION LAWN**

**Save the Dates for**  
**SVWC 2025!**  
**SATURDAY, JULY 19 – MONDAY, JULY 21**

*Please Note: The views, opinions, and positions expressed by SVWC speakers and attendees at the Conference are the speakers' and attendees' own and do not necessarily reflect those of SVWC, its founders, board members, staff, or volunteers.*



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